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Belarus Proposes Division of Former USSR Ships

LD1205162894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Belarus intends to propose considering the division of non-military ships of the former USSR's fleet at a CIS summit. As Interfax learned in the press service of the CIS Executive Secretariat, at the initiative of the Belarussian side a meeting of CIS experts is scheduled for next week to discuss this issue.

In the meantime, a high-ranking official of the Belarussian Foreign Ministry, who requested anonymity, told Interfax "this idea most probably will be once again killed, because the states who are currently owners of non-military ships of the former USSR are unlikely to allow this issue to be put on the agenda of a CIS summit."

The source believes that a significant number of former Soviet non-military ships have already been privatized or mothballed for a long term. In his opinion, "the time to achieve the fleet's division may have been irreversibly missed."

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 13 May

LD1305060494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0529 GMT 13 May 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 13 ITAR-TASS—Most national newspapers lead with reports and comments on President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Germany.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI says "Peace in Europe depends not only on Russia and Germany, but their good relations can help develop a pan- European security system". The newspaper remarks that one of the sensitive issues, concerning the withdrawal of Russian troops from Germany, was successfully solved during Yeltsin's visit: the last Russian troops will leave on August 31 from Berlin, as Moscow insisted, and not from Weimar, as Bonn proposed".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reports from Bonn that the two countries "have succeeded in lifting the shadow which weighed down on Russo-German relations lately in connection with the departure of the Russian western army". The newspaper stresses that the second day of the Russian president's visit to Germany witnessed "a special, trustful relationship which has taken shape between the leaders of Russia and Federal Germany".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA stresses that "Yeltsin secured a version of the Russian troop withdrawal from Germany which is acceptable to Russia", while German Chancellor Helmut Kohl "was attuned to Moscow's sentiments"

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who accompanies Yeltsin on his trip, said "The results of the first days of the visit are evident. Solutions have been found which suit both countries, and—most importantly—a basis has been laid for building a common future".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries a banner "Yeltsin has won the battle of Berlin", but admits that Kohl, who was yielding on the Berlin question, proved to be indomitable on another point: the withdrawal of the Russian troops and the units of our Western allies in the anti-Hitler coalition will "proceed separately".

The newspaper also mentions shifts in Russia's standpoint on cooperation with the North Atlantic alliance: "Helmut Kohl succeeded in "keeping the honorable guest from Moscow on track for "Partnership for Peace".

TRUD reports on the press conference held by the two leaders, which "revealed the scale of their conversations, their efficiency, and their reciprocal movement towards concord". The German side supported Russia's striving for integration, the newspaper says. The Russian president and the federal chancellor stressed that the visit reflected the frank, friendly and trustful character of relations between Russia and Germany.

PRAVDA says that "talks between the two politicians confirmed what had been expected: There will be no joint farewell to all the four powers of the anti-Hitler coalition, on which Russia, and especially its military insisted". The newspaper says that no headway was made in solving yet another pressing problem—the exchange of the cultural values which the sides captured during World War Two.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI publishes an interview with Yevgeny Yasin, head of the Russian president's analytical centre. The prominent economist proclaimed that Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin are at present "the mainstays of political stability in society, which is absolutely needed for reforms to continue".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA comments on the fact that the State Duma refused to give the army its "survival minimum" by turning down the Defence Ministry's request for an addition of 18 trillion roubles to the defence budget. According to the newspaper, the cut in the defence budget will lead to a "further obsolescence of the army's military technical potential, the curbing of restructuring in line with the military reform".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA rebuffs Zbigniew Brzezinsky's statement that calls for partnership between Russia and the United States are premature. According to the newspaper, "Partnership is possible and necessary, although it can hardly be comprehensive, simple and smooth at the present stage".

The same newspaper carries an interview with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas, who stresses the importance of "cooperation of equals" between Russian and his country. The Lithuanian president said that "despite complications, present relations between lithuania and Russia can be characterised as good".

Continued Reportage on Yeltsin's Visit to Germany

Yeltsin-Kohl Talks, Ties Viewed

LD1205180894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 12 May 94

[Video report from Germany by L. Ogorodnikov and V. Kondratyev; from the "Ostankino" newscast]

[Text] [Ogorodnikov] The second day of the Russian president's visit to Germany started in the German Government guest house in Petersberg, a Bonn suburb, with meetings with Rudolf Scharping, Social Democratic Party chairman and prime minister of Rhineland-Pfalz, and Johannes Rau, minister president of North Rhine-Westphalia.

[Kondratyev] Both politicians aspire to the highest posts in the state. Rau has chances of replacing Richard von Weizsaecker as federal president as early as 23 May and Scharping is aspiring to the post of Helmut Kohl himself in October of this year. This meeting, apart from a discussion of topical political problems, undoubtedly gave the Russian president the opportunity to get better acquainted with the way the mechanism of interrelations between the ruling parties and the opposition functions in a democratic state.

[Ogorodnikov] Two hours later Boris Yeltsin and Aleksandr Shokhin held talks with Theo Waigel, chairman of the Christian Social Union and federal finance minister. The head of the German Finance Ministry said that the problem of Russian foreign debt was discussed—it is assessed at 87 billion German marks—and also the possibilities of changing the mechanism of granting Russia new credits. Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Shokhin said that an accord has been reached on Germany granting a 500 million [currency not specified] preferential loan for purchasing railway cars from the former GDR. A big question mark hangs over many other projects, inasmuch as Russia does not intend to settle in hard currency or oil and is offering in exchange deliveries of military equipment, in particular MiG-29 fighter aircraft. Officially Bonn's attitude to this an approach is fairly skeptical.

The military theme was also discussed in Petersberg today. Defense Minister Grachev stated this in an interview with the Ostankino TV company; he provided a few details of the discussion of the August ceremony between the leaders of the two countries.

[Kondratyev] At this point the official part of the stay in Bonn has been completed. A program is beginning which could be described as lightweight. The point is that Helmut Kohl invites those to whom he wants to show his special liking to Rhineland-Pfalz, the region of his birth. There, in a cozy litte restaurant and in the chancellor's private residence, partaking of Kohl's favorite dishes, the statesmen are continuing the conversations begun in Bonn.

[Ogorodnikov] These meetings, rare and unusual in West German politics, and the heightened marks of attention must show, not so much, as they put it here, the male friendship between Yeltsin and Kohl as the fact for Russians that Germany regards Yeltsin as the guarantor of market reforms and that warnings alleging that after the withdrawal of Russian troops from Germany the German leadership will turn its back on Russia and will not take it seriously are unfounded. Yeltsin himself, in turn, who is in every possible way demonstrating his good relationship with the chancellor, said that he believes in Helmut Kohl, in his honesty and decency. The process of the genuine reconciliation of the two great peoples after the withdrawal of the Western Group of Forces will enter a new era.

Yeltsin, Kohl Tour Speyer

LD1205191894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1613 GMT 12 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Speyer TASS [no date as received]—Taking a break from talks on European security, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl gave Russian President Boris Yeltsin a tour on Thursday of the region in Germany's southern Rhineland-Palatinate state, where the chancellor lives when not in Bonn.

Yeltsin and Kohl travelled to a small picturesque town of Speyer on the Rhine bank, where they toured the Romanesque 11th-century cathedral, the world's biggest when it was built.

About 3,000 people greeted Yeltsin on the square in front of the cathedral. Among them, there were a lot of migrants from former Soviet republics. A group of ethnic German migrants from Kazakhstan were carrying a poster reading "Glory to the Russian people". "We wish you every success, Boris Nikolayevich", the gathering chanted.

A former militiaman of the Kazakh city of Barnaul, Ivan Gros, told TASS that ethnic Germans "highly appreciated yesterday's statement by the Russian president as regards Russia's German community. If the situation in localities changes for the better, I am confident that the number of people seeking to move to Germany will decrease drastically. So far, people are guided by economic considerations. Nevertheless, most ethnic German migrants are missing their motherland badly", he admitted.

Before the tour about the cathedral, the Russian president told reporters that the second day of his visit to Germany was not so intense as the first one. However, he stressed, today's meeting in Bonn with leaders of the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) enabled me to better

understand the power balance in the country ahead of this year's election. On the whole, talks never cease—in the bus, in the car, at the table, Yeltsin noted.

Leaders' Talks, Troop Pullout Viewed

PM1205193994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 May 94 p 3

[Yevgeniy Bovkun and Boris Vinogradov report: "Boris Yeltsin Believes Helmut Kohl, Who Promises That Germany Will Not Turn Its Back on Russia When Its Troops Leave"]

[Text] Bonn—The Russian president and the FRG chancellor have eliminated with surprising ease the misunderstandings over the Russian troops' withdrawal procedure: The send-off will take place in Berlin 31 August, without the allies. They will leave, as agreed earlier, in September. There will be a meeting of the two countries' cultural figures in Weimar. The annoying incident in bilateral relations is considered closed. As Boris Yeltsin said, his friend Helmut Kohl detected the mood of the guest from Moscow and of the Russian public in his first sentence. Sacrificing election considerations, Helmut Kohl found within himself the courage to abandon in time a procedure that was humiliating for the Russian Army.

General Matvey Burlakov, commander of the Western Group of Forces, declared with relief that "it is even simpler" to leave separately [ukhodit po otdelnosti].

Boris Yeltsin proposed appending the final period mark to the past at the conference of heads of state and government of the CSCE countries which will be held in Budapest in December. In the president's opinion, new principles of an international structure for the year 2000 must be formulated there. The 50th anniversary of the end of World War II can also be a suitable moment for the collective drawing of a line under the past.

Military topics were thereby virtually exhausted in the talks. The establishment of Russia's closer relationship with NATO was postponed to a future date. Helmut Kohl confirmed the FRG's fidelity to the "partnership for peace" concept. President Yeltsin replied that he cannot sign this document until the Russian side has drawn up and agreed an additional protocol taking into account the special features of the 3-million-strong army with its unique armament, which not one Western state possesses.

A protocol amending the "partnership for peace" concept for Russia's part will start to be prepared within the next few days. German commentators point out that Russia is increasingly confidently declaring its geopolitical interests and the need to reckon with it as a great power. Kohl, incidentally, did not stint epithets when recalling Russia's greatness and its historical role in Europe's development.

To all appearances, Moscow diplomats still do not know which way Germany will go after it has seen off the last Russian soldier. Will its desire to support the Russian reforms not cool, preferring closer and more reliable partners in the West? Much attests that it is already pretty tired of being one of Moscow's most active and generous helpers. Boris Yeltsin believes in the chancellor's decency and political experience and considers him the guarantor of a further strengthening of bilateral ties. But what if another chancellor accedes to power here in November, after the Bundestag elections?

In conclusion, about the work of the Russian officials who organized the visit. They operated in the best traditions of the stagnation period. On a directive from the Russian Embassy the texts of Boris Yeltsin's after-dinner speeches were kept in the press center's desk practically until the need for them had evaporated. On the eve of the news conference the press service not only decided who would put questions to the president and the chancellor but also thought up these questions itself. In the space of some two years, if you recall his previous visit to the FRG, the president has been clothed in impenetrable bureaucratic armor.

Second Day of Visit Reviewed

PM1205194594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 13 May 94 p 1

[Pavel Shinkarenko report under the "Visits" rubric: "Peace in Europe Depends Not Only on Russia and Germany. But Their Good Relations Will Help To Create an All-European Security System"]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin began the second day of his official visit to the FRG by meeting with Rudolf Scharping, chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Germany. The conversation took place in the Petersberg Palace, where the Russian president was staying, and was of the nature of personal contacts between two political leaders. After this Boris Yeltsin visited the cities of Dadeyskhaym [name as transliterated] and Oggersheim and called at the private home of Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl. According to the diplomats who prepared the program of the visit, the visit to the German chancellor's home places was a response to last year's trip to Lake Baykal by Boris Yeltsin and Helmut Kohl. It is believed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that such meetings between the leaders "deep inside the two states" help to better understand the spirit of both countries and peoples and to strengthen mutual trust.

But even having left the capital, the leaders did not, I believe, stop the dialogue begun in the previous day's official talks. Although a great deal had already been done on Wednesday. One of the most delicate tasks was safely resolved—that of the venue for the ceremony marking the final withdrawal of the Russian troops from German territory: It will take place in Berlin 31 August, as Moscow had been insisting, and not in Weimar, as proposed by Bonn. "The war ended in Berlin, so what

question can there be of Weimar?" Colonel General Matvey Burlakov, commander in chief of the Western Group of Forces, explained our position. "Since it is a question of eliminating the consequences of the war, the ceremony must be held in Berlin." The Germans, as we see, have conceded. "My aim," Helmut Kohl declared for his part, "is to ensure that the Russian servicemen's send-off is worthy and respectful and is conducted in a spirit of friendship."

Despite its complexity, the subject of the Russian troops' send-off did not dominate the talks which the Russian Federation president had with the German leaders. A very wide range of questions of interaction and cooperation between Russia and the FRG was discussed during the conversation with President Richard von Weizsaecker, in the confidential conversations with Helmut Kohl, and in the enlarged meetings of the two delegations (the Russian Federation president was accompanied by Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin, Ministers Andrey Kozyrev, Pavel Grachev, and Yevgeniy Sidorov, and also Vladislav Terekhov, Russian Federation ambassador to Bonn).

As soon as the Russian president's aircraft arrived at Bonn/Cologne Airport from Moscow Wednesday morning, Boris Yeltsin made it clear that the visit was of a "planned nature." He said that 38 major joint projects have been prepared during the two years since his previous visit to Bonn. "The time has come to audit the way they are being implemented and also to discuss some 20 future joint projects," he remarked.

Boris Yeltsin and Helmut Kohl confirmed yet again that Russia and Germany regard each other as equal partners, on the state of whose relations the fate of European and world politics largely depends. At the same time the Russian Federation president emphasized that the ensuring of peace throughout the European continent depends not only on bilateral relations between the FRG and Russia. But the fact that the two greatest states on the continent can reach agreement on complex problems attests that it will also be easier to work with other countries in order to have a unified security system in Europe.

One element of it could be Russia's joining the "Partnership for Peace" program. To judge from Boris Yeltsin's statement, Moscow agrees with this NATO initiative in principle. But Russia cannot sign this document without a special protocol. "There must be one more document, which would stipulate specific questions concerning Russia's special features, including, for example, the fact that we have an army of 3 million men," he said.

This position is obviously shared by Bonn also. Moreover, acknowledging Russia's status as a great power, the FRG is sincerely interested in the success of the democratic and market reforms being implemented by its leadership and is prepared to continue giving it what support it can to surmount the present difficulties, as well as for further integration into the international community. Chancellor Kohl welcomed, in particular, the idea of turning the "G-7" into the "G-8" by means of including Russia. This question will be discussed, he said, in Naples at the meeting of the heads of the seven most developed industrial countries scheduled for July, and Germany will promote Russia's integration into international organizations in every possible way. "Any other development would be disastrous," Helmut Kohl emphasized.

Another complex topic of the dialogue in Bonn was the problem of the return of cultural assets lost by both countries as a result of World War II. The work of the commission set up by the two countries' Ministries of Culture has not yet produced results. An accord has now been reached that in the future this commission will work to a rigid schedule approved personally by the leaders of both countries. But we do not intend to interfere in the commission's work. Let professionals make the decisions, Boris Yeltsin remarked.

Today is the final day of the visit. Boris Yeltsin will spend it in Stuttgart, one of Germany's major industrial and cultural centers.

Yeltsin Meets With Foreign Minister

LD1305093094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0844 GMT 13 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents]

[Text] Bonn May 13 TASS—"All issues which were planned for discussion have been discussed. And we did not lose in any of them", Russian President Boris Yeltsin told TASS on Friday in his residence near Bonn where he had a lunch with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel.

After the meeting with Kinkel the Russian president left for Stuttgart where he is to visit an enterprise of the Alkatel-Sel concern and meet local leaders and businessmen.

Kinkel Urges Help on European Integration

LD1305100794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0929 GMT 13 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents]

[Text] Bonn May 13 TASS—German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel told the Russian president on Friday that Germany is ready to promote Russian integration into European organisations.

"We have stated our readiness to help Russia in its joining all European structures which are important for it at present—the Council of Europe, GATT We also intend to support your country in joining the trade regime, which will be set up after the elimination of Cocom [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral

Export Control], and surely, (in joining) the 'Partnership for Peace'", he told reporters describing his talk with Boris Yeltsin.

The problem of mutual restitution of cultural valuables seized during the Second World War was also raised. "We understand the delicacy with which the Russian side treats the issue. But I once again drew the attention of the president to the great importance of the problem for us", Kinkel told TASS.

Russia Hopes To Repay Debt With MiGs

LD1305101994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1004 GMT 13 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents]

[Text] Bonn May 13 TASS—Russia wants to repay its debt to Germany with MiG-29 fighter planes and is ready to ship them immediately if Bonn agrees, according to Russian Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin.

"If Germany takes MiG-29 planes we are ready to ship them", he told TASS on Friday and quoted President Boris Yeltsin as saying that "if necessary hundreds of fighters will arrive at local (German) airports in two days".

Shokhin added that one major project has been practically agreed upon during the visit of the Russian president to Germany. Bonn is to grant Russia a 500-million mark easy-term credit for buying railway cars produced in former east Germany.

Shokhin explained that it was impossible for Russia to manage the deal without the easy-term credit. Early this year Russia informed Bonn that the problem of shipping railway cars to Russia was irresolvable without privileged terms. The German Government met the Russian request although it was fraught with a certain confrontation with the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development, Shokhin said.

This is a 10-year easy-term credit granted under government guarantees, Shokhin said and added that the terms are suitable for Russia and will not negatively affect its budget deficit.

Yeltsin Not Returning Gutenberg Bible

MK1305091094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 May 94 p 1

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA unheadlined report under the "Visit" rubric]

[Text] Responding to a question from a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent, Russian Federation Culture Minister Mikhail Shvydkoy stated that "according to Culture Ministry information," the Russian president had set off for talks with Chancellor Kohl bringing along none of the books and other valuable objects in the so-called restitution category, or in other words, those taken to the USSR from the territory of Germany during the war and during the early post-war years. Hence the rumors about Boris Yeltsin's making a gift to the German side of the world-famous rarity—the Gutenberg Bible—are just rumors. But, alternative sources report, books from the Gotha Library may still be delivered to Germany toward the visit's end.

Statement on Trade Issues Released

LD1205162594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1525 GMT 12 May 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 12 TASS—In reply to Russian press reports on difficulties in bilateral trade, which had allegedly arisen through the fault of the German side, the FRG Embassy in Moscow has asked BUSINESS-TASS to publish its press statement, explaining the German view on this question.

The document notes, specifically, that, taking into account the new German federal lands' difficult adaptation to the market economy, the members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) had agreed to grant Germany easy terms for crediting export trade during the transition period. Such credit guarantees were issued to the sum of 8.2 billion German marks in the period from 1992 to 1993. This meant that German companies could export their goods to Russia while payment for such deliveries was guaranteed on easy terms, within the limits of the indicated sum, by the "Hermes Kredit-Versicherungds-Ag" company.

The point is that the German Government does not handle administrative and technical matters linked with the insurance of export credits. This job is entrusted to the foregoing private firm, but decisions to grant credits are made by four ministries: the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economics, the Foreign Ministry, and the Ministry for Economic Cooperation.

The embassy's statement points out that the conclusion of many contracts with Russian firms on the basis of the above-said preferential guarantees was delayed for different reasons and now they can no longer be applied, because the preferences were annulled beginning from January 1, 1994. The authors of the statement claim that the Russian side was notified about all this in advance.

Nevertheless, export guarantees for goods delivered to Russia are still being granted, but now on general terms, corresponding to the international practice and on agreement with credit insurers within the OECD. For instance, advance and intermediate payments, amounting to no less than 15 per cent of the total cost of the deal, have to be made if it is financed for a term of over 360 days. No preferential period is envisaged.

Therefore, the statement of the FRG Embassy notes, there is no deterioration of crediting terms, simply the period for granting temporary preferences has expired.

Economic 'Sore Points' Cloud Ties

PM1205114394 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 12 May 94 p 3

[Article by Vyacheslav Yelagin, section chief in the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry Press and Information Department: "Russia-Germany: Growing Mutual Interest"]

[Text] After the collapse of the former USSR, foreign analysts and some Russian political scientists maintained that it would take many years for Russian-German ties to become consistent and dynamic in nature. But those forecasts were not to be realized.

The regular meetings held between our countries' leaders are the best indicator of the scale of bilateral relations in the political sphere. Perhaps no other state leader in Europe maintains such close contacts with the Russian Federation president as Chancellor Kohl: There are reciprocal visits and a constant exchange of opinions with Boris Yeltsin by telephone and in the form of personal messages. Yesterday the Russian president arrived in Germany on an official visit, and in August he will take part in the send-off ceremony for the Russian troops.

The cooperation between the two states rests on a strengthening treaty and legal basis. Twenty five intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements have been signed in the recent period alone.

Germany is now one of Russia's main economic partners. It accounts for 17 percent of our foreign trade turnover. Russia is a very important partner for the FRG in the east. Fifty-five production-sharing contracts, mainly in machine building, are now in operation between the two countries' companies. More than 100 companies in production, trade, transport and dispatch, insurance, and other areas of cooperation have been set up in Germany using Russian capital. A considerable amount of our exports to the FRG go via them.

The German side is helping the process of privatization in Russia. The spectrum is diverse, ranging from the formation of the legal bases of private enterprise to joint research efforts and specific projects. For example, a company promoting economic reforms in the Moscow Oblast is operating with active German government department support and oversight. The Wintershall Erdgas Handelshaus joint venture is functioning successfully.

Enterprises with German share capital on Russian Federation territory number more than 1,700. Germany is entering into cooperation with Russia in the implementation of international space projects. It also intends to make its contribution to the program of implementing projects of ours in chemical production, power generation, capital construction, and aircraft construction. Business relations are being set up between our two states' regions.

Sessions of the Russian-German Cooperation Council for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation are held regularly. A bureau for a representative [delegat] of the German economy has been opened in St. Petersburg. Special bursaries for Russian graduates of higher educational institutions studying management, economics, and production organization are being established in a number of German concerns, for example, Daimler-Benz AG.

The FRG government intends to promote the involvement of German private capital in Russian reforms. According to experts' figures, German companies, with a total capital of $4.2 billion, make up 60 percent of foreign investors in Russia.

The FRG has helped in no small way the development of relations between Russia and the EU. Moscow and Bonn are stepping up their cooperation at the UN and CSCE level. It has stated its readiness to support Russia's membership application to the Council of Europe and is in favor of the creation of strategic partnership relations between Russia and NATO.

Bonn has welcomed Russian diplomacy's efforts to unblock the crisis situation over Sarajevo. The stances of Russia and the FRG regarding the solution of the Yugoslav crisis coincide to a large extent and there are no substantial disagreements.

All-around contacts are maintained in the military sphere. Joint maritime exercises involving naval combined units will be conducted this year. Troop exercises at the level of tactical subunits are planned in the future. A center for training and retraining our servicemen returning from Germany in civilian specialisms was recently opened in the Russian capital with FRG financial assistance. The sides are cooperating effectively in the sphere of eliminating nuclear and chemical weapons.

A joint Russian-German commission for the reciprocal return of cultural treasures removed during World War II has begun work. Consultations on events to mark its 50th anniversary are being held.

The problem of the ethnic Germans on Russian Federation territory is a very important aspect of Russian-German relations. A protocol was signed in July 1992 which envisages cooperation in the phased restoration of the Russian Germans' statehood and better provision of facilities in areas where they represent a high proportion of the population. This year the FRG will allocate 65 million German marks [DM] for these purposes. For the first time Russia's draft budget earmarks 30 billion rubles likewise. Thanks to these measures, it has been possible to check somewhat the growth of repatriation of Russian Germans to Germany.

But our relations are not unclouded. Touching on problems in the economic sphere, reciprocal trade turnover last year, according to preliminary figures, was DM20.5 billion as against DM21.8 billion in 1992. The worrying thing is that Moscow has not to date been able to repay the debt of approximately DM40 billion accumulated since Soviet times. True, an intergovernmental accord consolidating the foreign debts of Russia and the former USSR was signed in September 1993. We have been granted a 10-year deferment of payment on DM8 billions' worth of debt.

The question of German investments in the Russian economy is critical. The amount of investment is substantially less than in, say, a country like Hungary. This year new arrangements regulating the cost of export credit guarantees have been introduced through the well-known FRG company Hermes: We now have to put 15 percent up-front in order to obtain credit guarantees. This makes it less interesting for us to take them up.

But these sore points can be treated. Boris Yeltsin's visit to our friendly neighboring country will undoubtedly make a substantial contribution to further deepening all-around Russian-German parnership links.

Visit Gives Yeltsin 'Moral Support'

PM1205125394 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 May 94 p 7

[Ravil Zaripov and Igor Yavlyanskiy report under the "Visits" rubric: "Final Parade Imminent"]

[Excerpt] Bonn—You will not believe it but Yeltsin brought good weather with him to the banks of the Rhine. As the government airplane approached the Bonn-Cologne airport, the fog which until then had formed a thick shroud over the Siebengebirge drifted off somewhere.

Boris Nikolayevich alighted from the airplane when the sky had already cleared and a gentle sun was shining. We, of course, are no experts in physiognomy but will make so bold as to assert that the Russian president stepped onto German soil in a good frame of mind. He even found an opportunity to give a short interview by the steps of the airplane, though this was not stipulated by the protocol.

"I want to sum up with my friend Helmut the results of the two-year period since my last official visit to Bonn. We will discuss—what is more for the final time—the arrangements for withdrawing our troops from the FRG. Right down to the last soldier. We intend to firmly insist that the celebratory ceremony be held in Berlin."

Matvey Burlakov, commander of the Western Group of Forces, is one of those who intend to insist to the end that Berlin is the location. In addition to the arguments which have already been presented, he added his own simplehearted soldier's argument: "But 31 August (the completion date for our troops' withdrawal) is a working day in Germany. Who will we have to take our leave of? It is necessary to organize the send-off on a nonworking day so that people come. It would be desirable to hold a meeting in the Reichstag."

During the current visit, the heads of state will not sign agreements and protocols. The only exception that has been made is for the so-called "red" telephone—the direct link between the Kremlin and the Federal Chancellery. Foreign Ministers Andrey Kozyrev and Klaus Kinkel will confirm its right to exist by adding their signatures.

Informed sources in the FRG Ministry of Foreign Affairs tell us that the German leadership views this visit as an opportunity to give Boris Nikolayevich "moral support." Bonn officials will do all they can to make the high-ranking Russian guest feel that he is head of a great power. [passage omitted]

Grachev on Troop Pullout From Germany, NATO Partnership

LD1205192894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1809 GMT 12 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Vorontsov]

[Text] Berlin, 12 May—A detailed scenario for the farewell ceremony for the Russian forces leaving Germany will be drawn up by the end of this week and presented to President Boris Yeltsin and Helmut Kohl for final agreement, Pavel Grachev, the Russian defense minister told the ITAR-TASS correspondent. The defense minister arrived today at the Western Group of Russian Forces, where he will spend two days getting himself acquainted with the progress in the preparations for the farewell ceremony, and will discuss the details of the final stage of the event with the group's commanding officers.

Pavel Grachev pointed out that "the only right decision" was made yesterday at the highest level concerning the farewell ceremony for the Russian forces in Berlin, with the Russian president and the German chancellor attending. "Now it is our turn to get down to business"—the Russian defense minister said.

Pavel Grachev said that the main political outcome of yesterday's Russian-German summit was that the leaders of two major European countries had confirmed their striving for closer cooperation not only in bilateral relations but also in ensuring security throughout the continent.

Replying to a question on Russia's concept for relations within the framework of NATO's "Partnership for Peace" program, the defense minister said that thorough preparation work is continuing on the Russian concept. After it is agreed on by the Russian Federation Security Council and the Russian president, Pavel Grachev will present it to Brussels on 24 May. In connection with this he noted that it is a question not of an "alternative"

document but only of Russia presenting its views as a great power on its role and place in the "Partnership for Peace" program.

The defense minister recalled that Boris Yeltsin stated in Bonn yesterday that an agreement on this program was reached in principle and that readiness was expressed to join the programme after Russia's views are presented and it's role in this program defined.

Grachev Denies Forces Sought Joint Sendoff With Allies

LD1205201894 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] [Begin recording] [Correspondent] Yeltsin and Kohl reached a decision on the sendoff ceremony for Russian troops in Berlin. [Video shows Defense Minister Pavel Grachev being interviewed]

Pavel Sergeyevich, now that the president and the chancellor have reached agreement on holding the ceremony in Berlin, can we say that all the problems connected with withdrawing our troops from Germany have been settled?

[Grachev] You cannot say that all the problems connected with withdrawing our troops have been settled. The fact is there are fundamental political decisions by the chancellor and our president. The ceremonial sendoff of the troops will take place from Berlin. Now the onus is on us.

[Correspondent] There were plenty of discussions in the German press about the Russian military insisting, I emphasize insisting, that the ceremonial sendoff be with the Allies. In order for there not to be any misunderstanding here, perhaps you could comment on this.

[Grachev] This is really a misunderstanding. I do not want to say that this is some sort of provocation, provocative questions; no, this is purely and simply a misunderstanding. We were not insisting, we were not even suggesting that the withdrawal should be organized together and simultaneously with the Allies. The timescale was laid down a long time ago. [end recording]

Defense Committee Head Questions Joint Exercise With U.S.

LD1305122694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1101 GMT 13 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Artyushin]

[Text] Bryansk May 13 TASS—"Russia cannot be made a training ground for the American Army," Russian Federation Security and Defence Committee Chairman Pyotr Shirshov said in an interview with ITAR-TASS.

Commenting on forthcoming joint Russian-American exercises to be organized on the Totsk training ground in the Orenburg region, Shirshov said that for organizing such an arrangement at first a legal procedure must be devised. "We do not have any laws, in compliance with which foreign troops could be invited to Russia," deputy to the Federal Assembly from Bryansk said.

Regarding the possiblity of Russia's participation in NATO's "Partnership for Peace" programme, Pyotr Shirshov called it a "danger for Russia". In his opinion, by participating in this programme Russia does not gain anything from the point of view of any access to NATO strategies and workings, and simultaneously, the Russian Army "becomes transparent to the North Atlantic bloc."

Protesters Demand Cancellation of Joint U.S. Exercise

PM1305114994 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 13 May 94 p 2

[Ivan Gavrilenko report: "One 'Desert Storm' Will Suffice"]

[Text] The Orenburg Oblast Administration building has been picketed. The participants in this protest action demanded the cancellation of Russian-U.S. exercises in the Totsk training area and the rejection of cooperation with servicemen from the U.S. Third Infantry Division under the command of General Holder, which participated in operation "Desert Storm" in Iraq.

Earlier, local representatives of 14 public movements and parties, including the Orenburg organization of the Agrarian Party, protested the joint exercises in Totsk.

The protest against the "peacemaking exercises" is beginning to strike a chord in other oblasts and republics in the Urals and Volga region.

Aspen Dialogue Reveals Divergence in Views

PM1205123194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 12 May 94 p 3

[ITAR-TASS observer Tatyana Zamyatina report, especially for ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI: "'Aspen Dialogue' Demonstrates Divergences of Views"]

[Text] Russia and the United States are leaving behind the romantic period in their relations begun by M. Gorbachev and continued by B. Yeltsin. Nowadays the representatives of our and the U.S. establishment hold diametrically opposed viewpoints on the majority of Russia's foreign and domestic policy questions. These divergences were also demonstrated by the Aspen Dialogue, a Russian-U.S. forum which took place in Sochi 1-6 May. This was the fifth in the series of dialogues, which was launched in August 1991 by the International Association of Enterprise Directors [IAED] headed by Konstantin Zatulin—now chairman of the State Duma Committee for CIS Affairs and Relations with Fellow Countrymen—and the International Center for Civil Administration (United States) in Aspen, Colorado.

The Americans, who included prominent figures from the Department of State, politicians, and political scientists—inquired during the forum primarily about the new Russian realities and expressed misgivings about a return to authoritarianism in Russia. The case made by Presidential Council Member Andranik Migranyan that the suprapresidential powers given to Boris Yeltsin by the new Constitution will make it possible to consolidate the democratic transformations in Russia produced a cautious reaction by members of the U.S. delegation. They asked: "Is there a hope that the present enlightened authoritarianism in Russia will create democratic institutions, which will continue operating after 1996?" And they added that the Americans feel skeptical about autocracy as a means of promoting democracy.

Furthermore, Greg Guroff, director of the Department of State's World Development Agency, stated that the "U.S. press" and people no longer love Yeltsin as much as they used to and that there will be no repetition of the U.S. politicians' support for actions similar to the storming of the White House in Moscow.

The opinion of IAED President Mark Masarskiy was listened to with interest in this debate. He believes that "the regionalization of the economy and the federalization of the state will hinder a return to authoritarianism in Russia." In his opinion, the mere fact of the two-tier [dvukhkanalnyy] tax system will not allow the federal center to concentrate financial resources in its hands and without those resources power is not power at all.

There was an equally keen exchange of opinions on mutual relations between the two great powers. "U.S. policy toward Russia is one of temporizing and indifference"—that position was expressed by Academician Aleksandr Yakovlev, well known in the United States as the number two man after Gorbachev, who helped to bring down totalitarianism across one-sixth of the globe's surface. Aleksandr Yakovlev is convinced that the United States carried out the Marshall Plan to revive West Europe after World War II solely because that plan was a continuation of its victory. But for the United States the revolution of the 1980's and 1990's in Russia was "alien." Whereas billions of dollars were spent on the Marshall Plan, nothing has been spent on aid to Russia. "Indeed, there is no need to," Aleksandr Yakovlev declared. However, the academician also noted with regret that in the United States there is no understanding of the fact that "the reform of Russia is of worldwide significance, especially for the creation of a postconfrontational situation." From that viewpoint, he believes, it would be wise for the United States and the Western powers to assist Russia's entry into the world community because that process is also proving very difficult.

The U.S. delegates to the forum agreed that their country does not have a clear policy toward Russia or a clear picture of what is going on in our country. That was demonstrated by a movie about Russia which David Shipler, a U.S. journalist who for many years was THE NEW YORK TIMES Moscow correspondent, brought to Sochi. Presented as an "intellectual product," this movie was, in the opinion of the Russian participants in the forum, a superficial reportage which did not reflect the essence of the Russian political process even in the slightest.

The participants in the Aspen Dialogue displayed a mutual lack of understanding about the future of the CIS as well. When the Russian politicians, in particular Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the State Duma Committee for CIS Affairs and Relations with Fellow Countrymen, explained to the participants in the forum that Russia cannot leave the 25 million Russian speakers living in the neighboring foreign countries to the whim of fate, the Americans immediately countered that by saying: "Does that mean that the United States must bear the responsibility for the entire English-speaking population of the world?" They refused to take into account Andranik Migranyan's arguments that "Russia is not indifferent to the direction of the development of the CIS republics because instability and conflicts in the Commonwealth countries influence the domestic political situation in Russia itself."

The mutual lack of understanding of the two states' politicians stems, in A. Yakovlev's opinion, from the burden of the old ideological cliches, from the legacy of Sovietology—a "lost science in a lost era."

However, as for the creation of an atmosphere of trust between the two powers, this, according to the U.S. representatives, cannot be formed "centrally" but must develop "from the grass roots." The question repeated most often by the U.S. delegation at the forum was about the preferable forms of aid to Russia. In Mark Masarskiy's opinion, since small and medium business is the natural environment for the development of democracy, that is where aid must be given first of all, bypassing the government. But ITAR-TASS General Director Vitaliy Ignatenko noted that the press remains an important instrument of democracy and if the world community does not want to lose the free flow of information from Russia and the CIS countries this flow cannot be left without injections of finance otherwise it will dry up.

The Aspen Dialogue showed once again how difficult the path toward mutual understanding is and that it is not only the politicians who have to shoulder those difficulties.

Russian Trade Exhibiters in U.S. Said 'Naive'

PM1305095194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 May 94 p 2

[Vladimir Nadein report: "Russian Government's Cavalier Attitude Clouds Opening of Washington Exhibition"]

[Text] Washington—In an attempt that is desperate rather than just bold, the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs [RUIE] has brought several hundred

examples of our advanced technology to the U.S. capital, set them up in Washington's best exhibition hall, lodged in hotels 450 leading people from all over Russia, set the lowest possible price for a visit to the exhibition ($10), and sat back to wait for success, trusting that the event will at least prove promising to the degree where people say: "You never can tell."

But even with such a sense of humor you do not feel like joking here. You get the impression that the exhibition's organizers did not burden themselves too much with the questions of where, when, for what purpose, and for whom they were holding it.

There are no industrial enterprises in Washington. Not one. The city lives on three sources of income: the government, tourism, and social benefits from the state. "We have not mounted the exhibition for gapers but for professionals," RUIE Chairman A.I. Volskiy said on opening it, as though responding to this doubt. "There is no particular need to entice professionals, for they themselves will come running to exhibits such as we have here."

The experienced A. Volskiy probably employed this approach inherited from the Soviet philosophy of waiting in line ("If a commodity is good, a buyer will turn up") not out of stagnant conservatism but out of grim necessity. The exhibition, which his union spent a whole year preparing, was in desperate need of money. Just three days before it opened, it was on the verge of ruin. "If Moscow Mayor Luzhkov had not opened credits for us at the last minute, the exhibition simply would not have happened," V.A. Nikulin, Volskiy's deputy in the RUIE, said.

When and how the Entrepreneurs' Union, which has gotten deeply into debt with this exhibition, will manage to justify Moscow's credit is a special question. It is only clear that in business contacts no special hopes should be pinned on governmental structures. Both presidents, B. Yeltsin and B. Clinton, did the exhibition the honor of signing greetings messages almost a month before it started. The U.S. President was magnanimous: "Today more than ever the development of the world economy has become dependent on trade expansion and access to world markets. Competition among countries is growing, and under these conditions not one of them can manage without developing and strengthening political and economic ties which contribute to countries' prosperity and well-being. This dependence has been manifested particularly vividly in the growing friendship of Russia and the United States. From joint space research and solutions for ecological problems to the development of advanced telecommunications systems our two peoples are marching at the front of the world community of nations."

B.N. Yeltsin was more specific in his greetings message and emphasized the promising nature of "large-scale" U.S. investments in Russia's economy and of joint work in the markets of third countries.

It is already known that the contract part of the exhibition is bound to succeed, since, according to Volskiy, approximately 50 contracts agreed beforehand will have been signed by the time it closes. But there is doubt about the accuracy of this figure, since too much is unpredictable in the course of it—all the innovations, alas, are of an unpleasant nature.

Above all, Oleg Soskovets, Russia's first deputy prime minister, refused at the last minute to fly in to participate in the exhibition. "When Soskovets was picked for the trip here, everything was proceeding OK, we reported here. The Americans raised (their participation) to the level of Secretary Brown. Now an arms deal with Malaysia has unexpectedly—well, maybe not for IZVESTIYA, but for you—unexpectedly cropped up, and a huge number of MiG-29's are being sold to it. Soskovets is snatched away from our trip and dashes off to Malaysia to sign this contract. Naturally, this side also lets its commerce secretary go to South Africa for the ceremony along with Hillary Clinton, the President's wife, and Vice President Gore."

This was how Volskiy explained this strange situation, when a Russian Government leader is "snatched away" from a previously agreed program, as a result of which the U.S. side is obliged urgently to send its secretary further out of Washington, so as not to find himself in an awkward situation and to respond to the cavalier attitude of his Moscow colleagues.

As for the "huge deal," about which A.I. Volskiy deemed it necessary to speak "off the record," naturally Washington knew of it the day the accords were reached, i.e. 6 May. But it cannot have occurred to anyone here that the sale of 18 fighters (precisely this is the extent of the "huge deal") to Malaysia would take place at the expense of a provocative gesture toward America's government and business world.

To all appearances, since the first beginnings of a market in our life too little time has passed for our leaders to realize, not just in mere words but really and truly, the importance of business and businessmen at the end of the second millennium AD. It is possible that our Oleg Soskovets will still somehow come to an arrangement with Secretary Brown. Governments do not bear grudges. But U.S. businessmen, who over the past 200 years have never had experience of functioning under a government which takes 93 percent of their profit and so are none too tolerant of loutishness from their own capital, are still less inclined to tolerate it from someone else's.

If you compare the level of the technologies exhibited, then President Clinton's words about a people marching "at the front of the world community" are largely justified. But the poor organization, the wretched staging, the plainly unsuccessful venue, and the arrogant disdain of our own government place the exhibition "Russian Technologies-94" clearly in a ranking below similar events conducted in the United States not only

by countries such as Brazil or South Korea but also the Czech Republic, Poland, and Romania.

The commercial training of the Russian guests is altogether beneath all criticism. Although the majority of them are splendid professionals with a profound and comprehensive knowledge of their own technologies, they freeze with ineptness or blush like maidens at such a simple and natural question as: How much? Some were offering their products for sale on the U.S. market at such fabulously low prices that visitors could not help thinking about perfidious Russian dumping. They would be talking with a representative from Kaluga and would be astounded, as he himself was astounded, to learn that products analogous with his cost not $3 in Washington stores, as he was sincerely convinced, but a whole $30.

Just as irreproachably naive were not only vendors of car mirrors and distinctive picture-frame moldings but also developers of superaccurate missiles for the Navy. They too were flummoxed by the questions: How much? When will you deliver? How will you train personnel?

In the hotel where the leaders of Russian enterprises and scientific research establishments, which frequently do, in actual fact, march at the front of the "whole planet," are staying, the prudent management disconnected the telephones in the rooms in advance. In America, as is known, a hotel guest pays not only for international calls but also for calls within the city itself. Experience shows that Russians vacate their room, refusing to pay not only for local calls but also for lengthy intercontinental calls.

If RUIE Chairman A.I. Volskiy conceived this exhibition as a demonstration of his own organizing abilities, then the experiment should be considered perfectly successful. It was very difficult, very troublesome, and very expensive to hold such an event. But if solid business contacts had been planned as the desired result, then resources should be saved up for the next time, when the chief motive will be not "they will come running themselves" but "the customer is always right."

The exhibition will last three days and will end Thursday 12 May. Provision has not been made to continue it in other U.S. cities.

Churkin: Bosnian Federation Plan Needs Thorough Study

LD1305082094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0658 GMT 13 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva May 13 TASS—Russian envoy to former Yugoslavia Vitaliy Churkin believes the Vienna agreements on the borders of the Muslim-Croatian federation in Bosnia need to be thoroughly analysed in order to determine how they affect the Bosnian Serbs.

"It is necessary to find out how do they correspond to the general settlement process which also includes Bosnian Serbs", he told TASS late on Thursday adding that "in particular, the size of the territory on which the parties plan to create the Croatian-Muslim federation needs an attentive consideration".

The Russian envoy also said that the work of the "contact group" which spent two weeks in Bosnia-Herzegovina will become "an element of the general mosaic" to be discussed on Friday by foreign ministers of Russia, the United States and five EU countries.

'Little Chance' of Agreement on Bosnia Seen

PM1205143794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 May 94 pp 1, 3

[Maksim Yusin report: "War in Bosnia: Russia and the EU Fail To Surmount Differences with the United States"]

[Text] On the threshold of the meeting of the foreign ministers of Russia, the United States, France, Britain, Germany, Belgium, and Greece scheduled for 13 May in Geneva the "Great Powers" have failed to surmount the serious differences preventing them from working out a coordinated position.

The Russian and French diplomats who initiated the Geneva talks had hoped to be able to persuade the Americans to alter their approach—which would have enabled Russia, the United States, and the EU [European Union] finally to act as a united front and put effective pressure on the opposing sides in Bosnia. To judge from recent statements by Secretary of State Warren Christopher and other U.S. officials, there is little chance of this.

Washington is still skeptical about the plan proposed by the EU and supported by Moscow for a repartition of Bosnia, under which the Serbs are to get 49 percent of the republic's territory and the Muslims and Croats 51 percent. It has also proved impossible to find a common language on the question of sanctions against Yugoslavia. Russia has long been demanding that they be lifted. The Europeans are prepared to agree to a gradual easing of sanctions in exchange for Serb compromises. As for the Americans, they are categorically opposed to any indulgence for Belgrade.

The Russians and West Europeans in turn stubbornly reject the U.S. idea of lifting the embargo on arms deliveries to the Bosnian Government. Moscow is afraid that this step will alter the correlation of forces to the Serbs' disadvantage and will inspire the Muslims to new offensive operations. The EU countries fear for the fate of their peacemakers, who could end up hostages in the event of the conflict's escalation.

In the opinion of informed Russian Foreign Ministry personnel the Geneva talks will be very complex. The sides will hardly be able to form a single approach to all key questions and thereby prepare the ground for a

summit meeting on Bosnia, the need for which has been stated repeatedly by Moscow.

There is a more modest but, so people on Smolensk Square believe, perfectly attainable goal: to advance a joint initiative for a cease-fire on all fronts in Bosnia. This would make it possible to remove the tension in the region of the Serb-controlled city of Brcko, around which large Muslim and Croat forces have been concentrated. If the Bosnian government troops succeed in taking the city and cutting the narrow corridor connecting Serb regions in Bosnia with Yugoslavia, the Serbs' position will deteriorate sharply, and the war will commence a new spiral.

The aim of Russian diplomacy is to prevent such a development of events and to make the warring sides sign an armistice. The Serbs, who have seized practically all the territories that they wanted, are to all appearances ready to agree to a cease-fire. The hardest task is to convince the Muslims of this—which is only possible if the Americans come out decisively in support of an armistice. How ready they are for this must come to light during the Geneva meeting.

Kozyrev Arrives in Geneva To Join Bosnia Talks

LD1305112894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1030 GMT 13 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva, 13 May (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has arrived in Geneva, where talks are to be held today by foreign ministers from the Russian Federation, the United States, and five countries of the European Union—Greece, Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, and France—on problems of a Bosnian settlement.

The meeting aims to work out a common position on the Bosnian problem and to pave the way for the resumption of talks between the conflicting sides in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Delegation Attends European Security Pact Talks

LD1205220894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1649 GMT 12 May 94

[Excerpts] Athens, 12 May (ITAR-TASS)—"All initiatives concerning the fundamental interests of stability and security in Europe are best to be implemented within the CSCE framework." Such is the position taken by the Russian diplomacy on the pact for stability in Europe which is planned to be signed on 26-27 May in Paris, as members of the Russian delegation that took part in a preparatory meeting of senior officials held in Athens on Thursday told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today.

The meeting was attended by delegations from almost all European countries, the United States and Canada, as well as seven international organizations including the United Nations, CSCE, the European Commission, WEU [Western European Union] and NATO. The CIS countries were represented by delegations from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova. Armenia and Azerbaijan were present as observers. [passage omitted]

As ITAR-TASS correspondent learned, Russian diplomatic circles are especially concerned about the question of borders. Russia believes that this question should be considered only on the basis of such fundamental principles of the CSCE as inviolability of the borders, respect for territorial integrity of the states and their sovereignty. [passage omitted]

Terms of Draft Agreement With EU Outlined

PM1205144994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 May 94 p 3

[Aleksandr Sychev report: "European Union Gives Us Two and a Half Freedoms"]

[Text] European Union [EU] and Russian experts have completed work on a draft partnership agreement that will be discussed by the EU Council early next week at foreign minister level.

This agreement is not identical with the accords that some of our former CEMA partners in East Europe have with the EU. The Common Market agreed on free trade with them right away. Russia represents an economy that is large for the EU, and Brussels will not agree to harmonization with it without careful consideration. Nevertheless a treaty with Russia is desirable for Moscow. It provides a legal footing for trade and economic relations with the EU.

The prepared draft constitutes an interim agreement. It will operate until late 1997, when a decision is to be adopted on whether it should be supplemented with a statute on free trade. In its current form Moscow will receive two and a half of the four freedoms operating with the EU—freedom of movement for goods, services, capital, and manpower—namely freedom of movement for services and capital, and the phased liberalization of commodity exchange.

In the opinion of Foreign Ministry experts, the EU's agreeing to grant Russia the same advantages that other members of GATT enjoy was a very important gain for Moscow. Through not taking part in that organization Russia has often fallen victim to restrictive measures introduced against its competitive goods. Moscow will now obtain the right to demand observance of GATT norms within the EU—provided, of course, that it meets them itself.

It only proved possible to make a breakthrough on two problems that remained unresolved until recently—Russian exports of nuclear materials and the status of West European banks in Russia—as a result of contacts by telephone and fax between Sir Leon Brittan, EU

commissioner for trade, and Aleksandr Shokhin, deputy chairman of the Russian Government.

Moscow insisted that there should not be deliberate discrimination against Russian exports of fissionable materials but encountered dogged opposition from Paris. France also produces nuclear materials and is afraid of an influx of a large quantity of cheaper Russian output. The compromise goes like this: Moscow's demand has been met, but the EU reserves the right to use commercial means to protect the market until the term of the agreement expires, consulting with Russia on every occasion.

As for Western banks, it has been decided that the Russian president's restrictive edict will be abrogated in 1995.

Dissatisfaction Voiced With WEU Actions on Partnership

LD1205150494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1316 GMT 12 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Krylovich and Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow May 12 TASS—A decision on granting the status of "associated partnership" to nine countries of central and eastern Europe as well as the Baltics, which was adopted at the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Western European Union [WEU] in Luxemburg on May 9, does not evoke a uniform response, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Mikhail Demurin told a briefing here on Thursday.

"We regard this action as an attempt to find a new model for military and political cooperation on a limited space in Europe," he noted. In the opinion of the Russian diplomat, this is at variance with the need for building a truly pan-European system of security and stability.

It is a mistake to bank on cooperation in which there is no place for such a country as Russia. Such a trend, if it picks up steam, is fraught with raising artificial barriers and creating a threat for a new split in Europe, Demurin underlined.

"We support another way based on the principles of really broad cooperation between all European states. We stand out for the WEU to become, in future, part of a pan-European structure under the aegis of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe," the spokesman continued.

He pointed to Russia's serious interest in developing a constructive dialogue and practical cooperation with the WEU as well as its member countries.

Chernomyrdin, Swiss Official Sign Trade Agreement

LD1205190894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and member of the Federal Council, Head of the Swiss Economics Department Jean-Pascal Delamuraz signed a bilateral agreement on trade and economic cooperation in Moscow today.

Chernomyrdin suggested that Russian-Swiss cooperation had good perspectives since the commodity turnover between the two countries had doubled last year. Chernomyrdin said they had also discussed attracting foreign investments to Russia and education of Russian businessmen in Switzerland. Chernomyrdin announced that they had also considered possible activities of the Credit Suisse bank on Russian territory. He promised that a way would be found for the Swiss bank to start its work in Russia. However, Chernomyrdin had mentioned the Russian president's decree limiting activities of foreign banks in Russia.

Jean-Pascal Delamuraz said his delegation including leading Swiss economists intended to negotiate with the Russian vice premiers, ministers and the chairperson of the Central Bank of Russia on a number of issues concerning bilateral cooperation.

Nuclear Bomb To Be Removed From Kazakhstan Test Site

PM1305095594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 May 94 p 2

[Vadim Prokopenko report under the "Topic of the Day" rubric: "Ownerless Atomic Bomb Waiting for Its Fate To Be Decided for Over Three Years"]

[Text] "Following the breakup of the Soviet Union the Belovezhskaya agreement, the Almaty declaration, and agreements among the CIS heads of state say that everything that is on the territory of each state is its property. The Baykonur cosmodrome and the Semipalatinsk test site are the property of Kazakhstan.... So Russia has nothing to do with them," Nursultan Nazarbayev said in a speech at UN headquarters in New York in 1994.

But it does. Russia very directly has something to do with the Semipalatinsk test site. No matter how Nursultan Nazarbayev wanted to stun the whole world community in the golden hall at UN headquarters with his presidential authority, he has to give Russia's atomic specialists their due.

Back in May 1991 a physical irradiation experiment was prepared at installation 108-k in the granite Degelen mountain "in order to improve military equipment." This means that a tunnel 592 meters long was driven through a mass of granite around 20 km in diameter at a depth of at least 126 meters from the surface. A small (by present-day standards) atomic bomb with a yield of 0.4

kilotonnes, equivalent to 400 tonnes of TNT, was set up at one end of this tunnel 108-k, and specially designed objects were set up at the other end. When the bomb was detonated, the articles would receive the full impact. Scientists would bring them to the surface, study the damage, and refine the latest achievements of the Soviet Union's military thought. On whose territory, I would remind you, both Russians and Kazakhs lived until the end of 1991....

In August 1991 the Kazakhstani president closed the Semipalatinsk test site, but the atomic bomb remained deep within Degelen mountain. It could in principle have been detonated long since. But in big-league politics Kazakhstan had employed the tactic of a state which had voluntarily renounced nuclear arms, and an underground explosion with that kind of yield would have been noticed by satellites all around the world....

A decision was made to remove the atomic charge and the military equipment back in 1992. Since then talks have been under way at the highest state level. Kazakhstan has even recruited U.S. specialists. They have insistently recommended that this problem be entrusted to Russia.

"We have experience of unearthing atomic charges. Through the history of the test site there have been several known cases of buried charges' suffering technical failure," according to Anatoliy Matushchenko, a specialist from the Russian Federation Ministry of Atomic Energy. "A joint Russian-Kazakhstani group is now starting work and is to implement a project formulated by the All-Union Scientific Research and Planning Institute of Industrial Technology (Moscow) and draw up an estimate of expenditure. The whole job could take more than six months, but it must be done before winter sets in. The Russian side will cover all the expenditure. By all accounts this will amount to in excess of 1 billion rubles...."

Everything that is removed from under the ground will be the property of the Russian Federation. Corresponding agreements have already been signed to this effect. No one, not even Kazakhstan representatives, will be able to see the irradiation facilities or touch the bomb that has spent over three years underground. Incidentally, nuclear charges have never been stored for so long out of storage facilities. So in this respect the Semipalatinsk experiment will prove unique in its own way.

Foreign Ministry Urges Settlement of Tajik Conflict

LD1205165394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1250 GMT 12 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Krulovich and Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow, 12 May—The Russian Foreign Ministry today called on the Tajik opposition, military, and political groupings in Afghanistan and the involved states to do everything possible in order not to allow the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border to aggravate. Mikhail Demurin, deputy director of the Press and Information Directorate of the Russian foreign policy department, said this addressing a briefing today.

He said that "one of the priorities in Russian foreign policy" at present was to assist in settling the Tajik conflict and to restore peace and calm in the country. In the diplomat's words, great importance is being attached to the continuation of the inter-Tajik talks that started with the Moscow round. The world's response to its results shows that "great hopes are being linked with the progress of the dialogue."

Demurin stated with regret that this approach was not being shared by everyone—the recalcitrant part of the Tajik armed opposition, supported by Afghan mojahedins, is concentrating its forces on the border. This is increasing the danger of "large-scale hostilities," the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Nagorno-Karabakh Agreement

LD1205191494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry has welcomed the agreement on ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh and insisted that it be strictly implemented by all parties. This was announced by an official representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Mikhail Demurin, at a briefing in Moscow today.

He said it was necessary to achieve a breakthrough in development of the situation, to turn to peace and to confirm the armistice with a legally binding agreement which would put an end to the armed conflict once and for all.

Demurin announced that the agreement on ceasefire had been reached on May 12 late at night by the Armenian and Azerbaijani defense ministers and the commander of the Nagorno-Karabakh army with a significant contribution made by Russia and the chairman of the CSCE Minsk Group on Nagorno-Karabakh.

"Contrary to the ceasefires unilaterally declared by Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan this agreement provides for mutual obligations of the parties and a compromise reached with the participation of the mediators," Demurin stressed.

Russia Said Planning To Stop Gas Supplies to Georgia

LD1205122894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Russia will not supply Georgian customers with natural gas in 1994. This is what knowledgeable sources in the Russian Gazprom organization told the (OIL INFORMATION AGENCY).

According to the Russian gas distribution plan approved for this year, Gazprom intends to have all surplus raw material resources sent to Ukraine to be stored in underground gas storage depots to ensure uninterrupted gas supplies to western European countries.

Georgia currently receives natural gas from Turkmenistan.

Yeltsin's Envoy Hails Moldovan-Dniester Rapprochement

LD1205205194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2028 GMT 12 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correpondent Boris Krivoshey]

[Text] Moscow May 12 TASS—The determination of Moldova and its breakaway Dniester region to improve their mutual relations is designed to subdue the entire conflict, the Russian president's special envoy for Moldova Vladillen Vasev said on Thursday in an interview with TASS, commenting on the joint statement signed by the Moldovan and Dniester leaders.

The document signed the other day is quite constructive and can lay down a good basis for further negotiations on the whole set of problems facing the confronting sides, Russia's envoy stressed.

"Both sides have come to understand that the situation developing in Moldova and its Dniester region calls for a pragmatic approach. As a result, the sides managed to find mutually acceptable variants of conflict settlement", he noted.

Vasev laid a special emphasis on the fact that the signed document stressed the need for defining the state and legal status of the Dniester region. "This is to considerably facilitate further efforts aiming to draw the conflicting sides closer together", he pointed out.

The sides also reached a compromise on a transition period and a gradual acquirement by the Dniester region of its state and legal status, the Russian diplomat reported.

There has recently been certain progress in relations between Moldova and its separatist province, which agreed upon approaches to solution of the most pressing problems. "However, I would warn against excessive optimism at the moment, since a lot of differences remain to be settled yet, including through Russia's mediation", Vasev stressed.

Gen Lebed Terms Dniester Leaders 'Incompetent'

LD1205152694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1228 GMT 12 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] May 12 TASS—Commander of the Russian 14th Army, deployed in the Moldovan break-away Dniester province, Aleksandr Lebed has accused the leadership of the self-proclaimed republic of attempts to blame Russian military for the worsening economic situation.

The general rejected accusations by Dniester Bank Chairman Vyacheslav Zagryadskiy, quoted by local media, that the field bank of the Russian Army allegedly bought 39 billion of Dniester roubles (interim currency made from old Soviet banknotes by sticking a special stamp with a portrait of Russian Field-Marshal Aleksandr Suvorov). The Army was buying Dniester roubles in order to undermine the economy, the banker claimed.

"There is not a single Dniester rouble in the money-box of the Army field bank", the general told ITAR-TASS today adding that the economic catastrophe of the region had been caused by its "incompetent and thieving leadership".

This is not the first time that Lebed accused Dniester leaders of financial embezzlements and corruption.

Official Says CE Not Impartial on Troops in Baltics

LD1205171494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1441 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] The Council of Europe "played up" to the representatives of the Baltic states, first of all to Estonia, when it linked Russia's membership in it to the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic countries, a senior member of the Russian Foreign Ministry told Interfax.

According to him, the Council of Europe "is not quite impartial" in its attitude to the presence of Russian troops in the Baltic countries.

In comments on the statement by Belgium's Foreign Minister, Willy Klaas, to the effect that the presence of foreign troops in sovereign states against their will violates the basic principles of the Council of Europe, the diplomat said: "We have repeatedly explained to our partners in the Council of Europe that this is a historic reality. Russia never deployed its troops in the Baltic countries. Stalin and other Soviet rulers, not the leaders of the Russian Federation, should be blamed for it."

According to him, Russia "displayed good will", when it placed the former Soviet troops deployed in the Baltic republics under its own jurisdiction in February of 1992, and began to withdraw them gradually. "It would have been interesting to watch the Baltic states' reaction, if we had not done so (as a matter of fact, we did not have to do it). They would have obtained on their soil armed men for whom no one is responsible," the diplomat said.

"We shall remove our troops from Estonia in the near future, agreement or no agreement. As regards Latvia, this problems has been almost resolved. Even if Russia's

membership in the Council of Europe is delayed for a couple of months, it will not be too momentous for us, since the issue of time is not of fundamental importance," he stressed.

At the same time, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin said in Moscow today that the leadership of the Council of Europe had spoken in favor of the rapid acceptance of Russia.

He said that Russia could become a full member in the first half of 1995.

Demobilized Baltic Fleet Personnel Face Penury

PM1305115194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 5 May 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report by Ye. Sokolova]

[Text] Despite the fact that the Russian side has not yet furnished Estonia with a timetable for the withdrawal of its forces, the withdrawal itself is, according to the military, proceeding strictly on schedule.

The headquarters of the Navy in Tallinn is left with only support units under its command. Ninety percent of the property from the torpedo and mine depot has already been shipped out by rail and road. Only a few bits and pieces remain. The workshops for overhauling torpedoes are deserted. Equipment is being sold to the Estonian side. It will be possible to make use of it for civilian purposes. Unserviceable and obsolete equipment is being abandoned. It would be very expensive to ship it out, and the Ministry of Defense is refusing permission to sell it off as scrap metal. It is clearly afraid of a repetition of the problems experienced in the Western Group of Forces. So we are abandoning thousands of tonnes of metal, to the joy of the local scrap merchants.

Unlike the Ground Forces units, the Navy units are not being withdrawn but are being disbanded on the spot. Only one in three officers is being offered a new posting. This means that two-thirds of them will end up homeless in our vast motherland. Those with less than 20 years of service will not even get a service pension. What is to become of them? Will they just become vagrants in naval uniform? Who will answer for the fact that people who are having to listen daily to being called "occupationists," people who have given the best years of their lives to the Navy, are being abandoned to their fate?

Government 'Ready To Promote' Peace in Yemen

LD1205134094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1256 GMT 12 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 12 TASS—Russia called on warring Yemeni leaders to stop fighting and said it is ready to promote an end to the conflict and help ensure peace in the country.

"The government of the Russian Federation again insistently calls on the warring sides to immediately cease fire and reach an agreement on armistice", the Russian Government said in a statement on Thursday.

"The Yemeni leaders should find strength to make the final choice towards a peaceful political settlement of contradictions. Moscow is sure that peaceful ways out of the Yemeni crisis do exist", according to the statement.

"Moscow believes that Yemeni leaders realise the inadmissibility and senselessness of the continuing bloodshed, the inevitable consequences of the fratricidal war for the future of the Yemeni people", it added.

"In the current critical situation it is especially important to be above emotions and settling accounts, to show state wisdom, abide by common sense and long-term interests of the country and its citizens", according to the document.

The government stressed that the tragic developments in Yemen cause great concern and reiterated that it is ready to actively promote efforts aimed at a peaceful settlement of the conflict, at restoring peace and quietness in the ancient country.

Ministry Hopes Turkey Changes Stance on Black Sea Straits

LD1205211594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1934 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] The Russian government considers it unacceptable to change unilaterally the present international regulation of navigation in the Black Sea gulfs and hopes that Turkey will review its position on this issue. This was said in a note sent by the Russian Foreign Ministry to the Turkish Embassy on April 29 in connection with the adoption of a navigation regulation in the Black Sea gulfs by the Turkish government, an official representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry Mikhail Demurin said at a news briefing in Moscow on Thursday.

In his words, "a number of articles of the regulation adopted by Turkey envisages the procedure of passage through the gulfs and considerable restrictions up to the complete ban on such passage for certain categories of vessels depending on their length, draft, cargo, etc." Demurin said that these articles of the regulation go beyond issues of navigational safety and contradict international convention.

In Demurin's opinion "the steps taken by the Turkish side regarding the gulfs can create unnecessary complications in this region. They should be perceived as an attempt to replace international regulation on this issue by domestic legislation."

Kuwait Said Planning To Buy Arms From Russia

PM1205132594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 11 May 94 p 4

[Unattributed report under the "Business News" rubric: "Will We Sell Arms to Kuwait?"]

[Text] The Kuwaiti Government is planning to buy military equipment in Russia, including 20 BMP-2 and 60 BMP-3 armored personnel carriers, spare parts, and possibly 27 300-mm rocket launchers. The purchase of Russian weapons represents a radical change in Kuwait's previous position; in the past, it relied solely on Western countries for the organizational development of its armed forces.

'Small Portion' of Syrian Debt To Be Writen Off

PM1205140594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 May 94 p 3

[Aleksandr Sychev report: "Moscow Has Still Not Decided Whether To Cancel Syrian Debts. Reports of Russian Generosity Were Exaggerated"]

[Text] It has not been ruled out that a small portion of Syria's debts to the Soviet Union, which have now been inherited by Russia, will be written off. A Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations staffer refused to be drawn on how far Moscow's generosity would extend while negotiations are still in progress.

Some Arab newspapers have been quick to report that an agreement was signed during the visit to Damascus by Russian First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets and that Russia canceled 90 percent of Syria's debts.

Yuriy Mikhaylov, advisor to the vice premier, who was in the delegation along with representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, has stated that no agreement on debt was reached, although there are high hopes of resolving the problem this year.

The Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations staffer reported that the exact total of Syria's debts is in the order of $11 billion. Of this total, almost $4 billion are overdue payments. Moreover, the USSR gave Syria a total of $205 million in freely convertible currency. The rest is composed of ruble loans, mainly to acquire arms and military equipment in the USSR, and also interest.

Damascus has in fact been pressing for the bulk of the debt—which has emerged as the result of unproductive spending on military purposes—to be written off, for repayment conditions to be relaxed, and first and foremost for the right to pay in installments over 20 years. Moscow favors the fulfillment of the contractual obligations relating to every loan and the repayment of the debt by 2005, at least with regard to the foreign currency loans. It is envisaged that the remaining amount will be paid off by deliveries of commodities (Syria has approximately 70 commodity categories which are in demand on world markets), by financing Russian institutions in Syria, and also via reinvestment in the local economy.

The Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations is convinced of Syria's creditworthiness. Before the collapse of the transaction clearing system, when Russia stopped meeting its commitments, Damascus was punctually paying off 400-500 million clearing rubles a year in order to cancel its debts. By 1994 Syria had paid back a total of $5.2 billion. Its present financial and economic well-being is not causing any concern to specialists, and it is undoubtedly a major trading partner of ours.

Following the cooling of relations between the USSR and Egypt, Syria remained Moscow's only strategic partner in the Near East. Russia intends to preserve this special relationship.

Political factors, and also the bid price (going rate) of Syrian debt on the world debt market will be taken into account in determining the percentage of the debt to be written off, if indeed things reach that stage, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations staffer said. In any case we are only talking about fairly insignificant sums and certainly not 90 percent of the debt. This concession, the ministry claims, does not create a dangerous precedent for debt negotiations with other countries.

DPRK Rejects Monitoring of Submarine Dismantling

SK1305111094 Seoul YONHAP in English 1058 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Moscow, May 13 (YONHAP)—North Korea keeps shunning a Russian expert's witness of the disintegration of a submarine they had purchased from Russia supposedly for use as scrap, it was learned here on Friday.

Officials at the Russian Defense Ministry said his Ministry had several times asked North Korea to accept a Russian expert's witness of the disintegration of a discarded Russian submarine delivered to them last December. But, North Korea has not affirmatively responded, they said.

Western sources here said North Korea seems to have already begun disintegrating the submarine.

"As they reject a Russian expert's presence, there is the strong possibility that they may recycle the submarine for military purpose," the sources said.

They said that despite North Korea's rejection of such witness, the Russian Pacific Fleet has decided to deliver more discarded submarines to North Korea.

Last November, North Korea signed a contract with Russia for the purchase of 12 discarded Russian submarines for use as "scrap."

The contract provides for a Russian expert's witness of the disintegration of the submarines delivered so as to dispel the possibility of them being recycled militarily in North Korea.

One of the submarines was delivered to North Korea last December and a North Korean tugboat is presently in Vladivostok preparing to tow another.

DPRK 'Warned' To Observe Loggers' Human Rights

LD1205132894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1244 GMT 12 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Krylovich and Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow May 12 TASS—Russia warned North Korea on Thursday that if the human rights of its lumberjacks in the Russian Far East are not observed, it will not prolong a corresponding agreement with Pyongyang.

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Mikhail Demurin told a briefing that a Russian delegation is leaving soon for North Korea to discuss a new agreement on timber processing in Khabarovsk and Amur regions as the latest one expired in 1993.

"The Russian side believes that the most important article of the new document should become the provision, according to which the rights of citizens of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea working in Russia should correspond to Russian legislation and international norms", he said.

Russian press reports said that the rights of North Korean workers are being rudely violated by their authorities.

"If no agreement (on human rights) is reached Russia will consider itself free from the rights and obligations fixed in the earlier agreement", Demurin stressed.

He also informed that Russian-North Korean talks at the level of deputy foreign ministers began in Moscow on Thursday. "The sides plan to consider the whole complex of bilateral relations and international problems", according to Demurin.

He explained that this includes political and economic relations, key aspects of the situation on the Korean Peninsula, including the nuclear non-proliferation problems and the Russian proposal to convene an international conference on security and nuclear-free status of Korea.

Korean Loggers' Fate To Be Decided at Pyongyang Talks

PM1205131994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 May 94 p 3

[Report by Mikhail Kozhukhov: "Kim Il-Song's Loggers Will Remain in Siberia After All, and They Can Flee from There to South Korea If They Wish"]

[Text] The fate of the 7,000 loggers from South Korea felling timber in Khabarovsk Kray will be decided at talks opening in Pyongyang.

The stumbling block at these talks—this is the third round—is differences between Moscow and Pyongyang over the legal status of the loggers in Siberia. The old agreement, signed back in the time of developed socialism, allowed the Korean authorities to dispense justice in the logging camps in accordance with North Korean laws. But the agreement expired last December.

Moscow does not rule out the probability of violations of the code of the builders of communism occurring in the logging camps: You cannot really expect refined behavior from operators of the "Druzhba" gasoline-driven saw, even if they are dedicated to the chuche idea. But Moscow is nonetheless insisting that citizens of the "land of morning freshness"—North Korea—working in Siberia should now enjoy all the democratic rights enjoyed by the citizens of the "country building capitalism"—Russia. For example, the right to strike, an eight-hour working day, and the opportunity to move anywhere, provided they have papers.

"If these demands are not heeded there will be no agreement," Valentin Moiseyev, chief of the Russian Foreign Ministry Korea department, said. He described as "rubbish" an AP report the other day that North Korea has lately been evacuating its loggers from Siberia, in order to deprive them of the opportunity to "choose freedom" and flee to South Korea.

Citing sources in the South Korean capital, the agency insists that at least 170 fugitive loggers have taken refuge in remote camps in the taiga in the hope of being able to get to the southern part of the historic homeland. Pyongyang regards them as having been "kidnapped" by Seoul, where a special commission has even been set up to resolve matters related to the resettlement of former loggers. Seoul is rather afraid that there might by spies working for Kim Il-song, not to mention criminals, among them. The problem is complicated by the fact that the fugitives have to be taken at their word: Their identity cards are permanently held by the labor camps they have left.

Valentin Moiseyev tends to take a sardonic view of stories of supposed atrocities by Pyongyang special services in Khabarovsk Kray. According to Foreign Ministry data, only four fugitive loggers have gotten to South Korea so far, and illegally at that—which, as a matter of

fact, was unnecessary: Russia would neither help nor hinder loggers wishing to go either to North or to South Korea.

The talk of tortured dissidents and of a prison regime in these logging camps may turn out to be untrue, if only because Kim Il-song's loggers are little different from the so-called Soviet workers abroad who resisted evacuation from Iraq during the war in the Persian Gulf or from battle-torn Yemen. The loggers are highly paid by North Korean standards, and many of them bribed officials at home to get the chance to wield an ax in Siberian temperatures of 60 below.

According to Valentin Moiseyev, the North Koreans' selfless work in the Siberian taiga means a net profit for our country. Two-thirds of what they fell—and that is three million cubic meters of timber per year—stays in Russia.

It is not inconceivable that the problem of fugitive loggers will be touched on at the talks with DPRK Deputy Foreign Minister Li Yen Gu [name as translit-erated], who is in Moscow. The story is that the senior diplomat's talks will cover the whole range of bilateral relations, including Russia's proposal on holding an international conference on security problems on the Korean peninsula.

Political Issues

Third Stage of Social Accord Signing Held in Kremlin

LD1205133894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1255 GMT 12 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova and Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow May 12 TASS—More than one hundred leaders of sport, youth, child, tourist, and women's organisations of Russia took place in the third stage of the Social Concord Agreement signing ceremony, which took place in the Kremlin today.

Signatures were previously attached to the agreement by the heads of Russia's executive and legislative branches of government, leaders of political parties and public organisations, and heads of industrial, business and financial associations.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, Chairman of the State Duma Ivan Rybkin expressed profound satisfaction with the progress of the signing procedure. "There were so many organisations wishing to sign the document," he noted, "that it was impossible to have them all sign the agreement simultaneously." Rybkin said this was "a very reassuring symptom".

Comparing the present Russian society with a very sick person, Rybkin said that this spring marked the beginning of changes and new tendencies, which will undoubtedly improve the national climate. He noted that substantial changes had occurred in the country after the December 12, 1993, elections. The Duma chairman believes that the Russian society today realises that nobody has any right to lay claim to political monopoly or, even more so, to undivided donimation. "If we want civil peace in Russia, we are simply 'doomed' to concord," he noted.

Rybkin said that the formation of a bloc of political forces, capable of adopting serious and balanced decisions, was among the results of the current social changes in the country. He pin- pointed the president, the Federal Assembly and the Russian Government as the key figures of the current political process. "The most influential public forces," he stressed, "are definitely striving for civil peace and concord."

Rybkin described the Social Concord Agreement as another step towards strengthening Russia's statehood. He believes the document's special importance lies in the fact that its signatories have pledged to act jointly in order to eliminate the reasons leading to possible manifestations of mass dissatisfaction. "The agreement," he stressed, "envisages methods to eliminate conflicts among various political forces."

Noting that the Social Concord Agreement was not a panacea, Rybkin said that it was in the interests of concord not to dramatise the prevailing situation, but to use all the possible ways to improve it.

"Today's signing of the agreement by youth, sport, women's and charity organisations," head of the presidential administration Sergey Filatov said, "shows that not only politicised sections of our society are eager for concord." Interviewed by ITAR-TASS, he stressed that today's signing ceremony had confirmed that all the sections of the Russian society "solidarise with those who are working for concord." Filatov said that new groups of organisations were ready to sign the agreement. The next stage of the signing ceremony will be held in the Kremlin on May 19. Representatives of the artistic and scientific intelligentsia want to sign the document. They will be followed by an "industrial group"—heads of large enterprises and concerns. A similar initiative is being displayed in the regions.

Soskovets To Chair Accord Conciliatory Commission

LD1205181594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 12 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The conciliatory commission for implementation of the civil accord treaty will possibly be chaired by First Vice-Premier of the Russian Federation Oleg Soskovets, head of the Russian presidential administration Sergey Filatov told IF's and RIA's correspondents on Thursday.

Filatov believes that Soskovets is a preferable candidate since this post requires a personality [word indistinct] the situation in the country well, especially in the economics.

Filatov thinks that it is so important, because the working groups implementing the civil accord treaty will focus in the first place on economic and social problems.

Filatov said that several "round-table" meetings will be organized on the issues embraced by the treaty: political stability, the overcoming of the socio-economic crisis, the federative structure, national security, science and culture.

These round-table meetings, Filatov said, will become kind of working centers and the first stage of conciliatory procedures, in the course of which concrete documents will be prepared.

"The conciliatory commission is designed to control the activities of "the round-tables" and to solve controversial issues which failed to be resolved at a lower level," Filatov said.

He noted that direct connection will be established between the commission and the president who "will take final decisions and give orders to specific organizations."

Filatov said: "There is a plan of legislative works which will be published soon. A group is already working in the administration: it prepares draft agendas for the round-tables, in particular, a document is under preparation regarding the concept of a new tax policy."

Filatov suggested that the conciliatory commission which will number 27 members will start working at the end of May.

Rutskoy Airs Views on Social Accord Treaty

LD1205200894

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1625 GMT on 12 May, in its "Details" program, carries an eight-minute report by Sergey Dorenko on the Social Accord Treaty, showing first some extracts from today's proceedings of the signing of stage three by various organizations from the world of sport, schools, tourism and also women's organizations, and then extracts of what the opposition is doing to rally its supporters, showing scenes at a festival of the former DEN newspaper, attended by Aleksandr Rutskoy.

Interviewing Rutskoy in his study early today, Dorenko asks him why he is not at the Kremlin signing the Social Accord Treaty. Rutskoy gives his reasons. Asked about his plans to take power, Rutskoy says: "As you know, the deadline for elections to parliament runs out in 1995. That's the first stage. I will do everything to ensure that the majority in parliament—not 20 or 25 percent, but 90 percent—are representatives of the Social Patriotic Party, the social patriotic movement. The next stage will be the preparations for the presidential elections in 1996." Asked if he will be standing as its candidate, he said he is too modest to call himself a leader or an ideologist. He says that depends on other people who listen to him or read what he writes. "If I see someone capable of implementing these ideas which are set out here, then I will stand down," he says.

Dorenko states that "Aleksandr Rutskoy is preparing to disappoint his allies with the supposition that it is unproductive to have more than one emperor. This will hardly delight other leaders. Moreover, Aleksandr Rutskoy is capable of rapidly disappointing the opposition if he tells his allies the same as he told us about his views of the future structure of Russian life. Rutskoy advocates combining popular capitalism and broad state socialist participation."

Over further footage of today's opposition festival, Dorenko points out that Ruslan Khasbulatov was expected to appear, but failed to do so. Dorenko sums up the program with the surmise that Rutskoy has lost his opportunity, pointing out that he does not suit all the opposition hierarchy and that they may have to seek a candidate from "less problematical personages."

Rutskoy Says Opposition Will Unite To Take Power

LD1205202494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1841 GMT 12 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Moscow May 12 TASS—Russian Former Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy called upon all opposition forces to unite in a bid to take power in the country.

Speaking at a meeting held today in Moscow "Izmailovo" sports complex, the leader of last year hard-line revolt in Moscow, said addressing leaders of different opposition parties and patriotic movements: "It is high time to stop arguing who is right and who is wrong. We have one objective, we have one motherland... Everyone must realise that unity is power now".

Rutskoy reiterated his declaration of May 9 that the main task of the opposition is to spare no efforts ensuring that "the next Victory Day (May 9, 1995) would be marked without the regime which rules now".

The meeting was attended by the most influential opposition leaders, such as Viktor Anpilov (Labour Russia), Sergey Baburin (Russian All-National Union), Ilya Konstantinov (Front of National Salvation), Generals Makashov and Achalov.

Meanwhile, Russian television aired an interview with Rutskoy in which ex-vice-president practically denied the proclaimed intention to come to power before next spring.

In the televised interview Rutskoy declared a contradicting plan according to which a would-be social-patriotic party, apparently headed by Rutskoy himself, shall win up to 90 per cent of seats in the parliamentary elections in 1995, and then enter presidential election race scheduled for 1996.

Duma Spokesman Criticizes Rutskoy 9 May Statement

LD1205175694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] The spokesman for the chairman of the State Duma, Dmitriy Biryukov, has said that the appeal by Former Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, made at the opposition rally at Lubyanka Square on May 9, in which he promised to mark the 50th anniversary of the victory over fascist Germany by "victory over the present regime", does not correspond to the "sentiments of millions of Russians who celebrated the May 9th holiday as a day of national accord". This is said in the Biryukov's statement sent to the media.

The spokesman is sure that under the difficult social and political situation in the country, "one cannot but recollect the promises given by those who were amnestied by the decision of the State Duma [no closing quotation mark as received].

He said that some statements made on Victory Day "indicate that some people forgot their promises."

Biryukov said that the amnesty was not an unconditional action permitting further statements and actions.

He believes that public statements which could lead to a violation of the balance in relations between the authorities and the country's groupings should attract the attention of the Russian Prosecutor's Office.

Shakhray Rumored To Lose Ministerial Post

MK1305081094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 May 94 p 1

[SEGODNYA report: "Sergey Shakhray To Be Deprived of Ministerial Portfolio"]

[Text] SEGODNYA has learned from reliable sources that even before his visit to the FRG began, Boris Yeltsin signed an edict on relieving Sergey Shakhray of his post of minister for the affairs of nationalities and regional policy. He will be replaced be Nikolay Yegorov, who is currently administration chief of Krasnoyarsk Kray. Mr. Shakhray will retain the post of deputy prime minister, however. All his deputy ministers—particularly, Messrs. Kotenkov and Abdulatipov—have also been fired.

Observers infer that Sergey Shakhray's removal may have been prompted by the increasing clout of the Federation components' political elites following local elections. In addition, Sergey Shakhray's successful efforts to obtain funds to implement programs for the North could not but encounter stiff resistance on the part of southern Russia's lobby.

Rumors Reportedly Well-Founded

LD1305074394 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0630 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] In is believed in the presidential administration that rumours about Sergey Shakhray's dismissal from his ministerial post are to some extent well-founded. A presidential administration official who asked not to be identified explained the emerging reports by the fact that the Russian Government had recently decided, with Sergey Shakhray's active contribution, to finance three programs for the north, which had seriously affected the financial interests of the south of Russia. Another important factor was the unsuccessful policy toward the Cossacks and Chechnya. In particular, no one had authorized him to conduct talks with the Chechen opposition.

Chernomyrdin Reportedly Meets With Zhirinovskiy

LD1205163594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] On Thursday Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin had a meeting at the government house in Moscow with the leader of the Russian Liberal-Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. According to an Interfax reporter, the meeting lasted for some 20 minutes. Its subject remains unknown as yet.

Report on Meeting Denied

LD1205163794 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] The Russian Government's press service has denied an INTERFAX report that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin met Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, today at the Government House in Moscow.

Government Confirms Meeting, Refuses Comment

LD1305092894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0905 GMT 13 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 13 TASS—The press service of the Russian Government confirmed that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin had a 20-minute meeting with nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy on Thursday, but refused to give any comments.

"Government services refrain from any comments on the matter so far", a spokesman of the press service told TASS. "One can judge about the essence of the talk only from what the LDPR leader said", he added.

Zhirinovskiy told reporters after the meeting with Chernomyrdin that he had proposed to the prime minister to replace some of the ministers with members of his "shadow cabinet".

Zhirinovskiy is mostly against Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Privatization Minister Anatoliy Chubays.

LDP Seeks Ministerial Posts

LD1205183394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] LDP [Liberal Democratic Party] leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy has ended a meeting with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin by raising the question of the party's involvement in government management.

In an interview with Interfax, Zhirinovskiy spoke of offering three possible options to the Prime Minister. Under the first option, the LDP wants three ministerial posts in the so-called power structures—defence, police and counter-intelligence.

If not, the party is ready to settle for the posts of justice minister and prosecutor general.

The final option provides for the posts of economics minister and chairman of the state property committee.

Zhirinovskiy said the prime minister would now contemplate the proposals while "we will also think of what position to take towards the government in future".

Zhirinovskiy Suggests Changes in Government Policy

LD1205211194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1934 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] The Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) is in favor of a one-party government and a multi-party parliament. LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy told students of the Moscow State University today.

Zhirinovskiy announced that at his meeting with Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin on May 12 he demanded that the interior and foreign policy of Russia be altered and the government's composition be changed.

"Currently, the government consists of people who either did not participate in the December elections or failed at them," Zhirinovskiy pointed out. He added that Russia must be ruled by a winning party meaning the LDPR. "I said all this to Chernomyrdin. Now we only demand that representatives of our party be included in the government," he stated.

Zhirinovskiy promised that as soon as he became president he would primarily eliminate the national republics in Russia, establish a East European union and order the power structures to fight crime within three months.

He said Moscow could show how to tackle crime. Zhirinovskiy proposed that Moscow be made a closed city for a six-month period in order to get rid of all criminal groups. He believes that such measures could be carried out in other Russian cities as well so that criminals be forced from Russia to the Caucuses and Middle Asia. "After this we will close the borders and here is the problem of crime solved," he reassured.

Zhirinovskiy suggested that Russia must take measures in order to lift sanctions against Iraq and Yugoslavia stating that they "need arms and we need food they could give to us." He stressed with regret that the present Russian foreign minister was working for the U.S.A. which was willing to make Russia a feeble country.

Zhirinovskiy said young people needed an idol and urged students to make the author of the book "The Last Breakthrough to the South" (ie. Zhirinovskiy) their idol . He emphasized that rock was the means used by the West in order to make fools of young people.

Zhirinovskiy called on the students to be against any revolutions, perestroykas and reforms since they did nothing but harm and were destroying the state. He found about 600 listeners among students of the Moscow State University.

Proposes Operation To Eliminate Crime

LD1205195494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1749 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Moscow May 12 TASS - Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's far rightist Liberal-Democratic party of Russia [LDPR] suggested conducting a police operation to clean sweep Moscow of criminals. For this purpose a special regime should be imposed on the Russian capital similar to the one which was in effect during Olympic games of 1980.

The LDPR faction in the State Duma suggested today that the parliament should consider a bill on the special regime in Moscow for a term of six months.

"During this period of time the government of Moscow backed by law enforcement bodies could cleanse the capital of all guest criminals and socially dangerous elements", a statement of the LDPR press sevice said on Thursday.

Zhirinovskiy's party believes such measure "will be praised by Muscovites who are living now under conditions of the unprecedented orgy of crime, violence, and hooliganism".

According to the press service, Muscovites "identify this orgy with the present rule of democrats".

Back in 1980, a few weeks before the begining of the Olympic games Moscow police and security staged a remarkable operation evacuating practically all prostitutes, tramps and petty criminals to at least 100 kilometres from Moscow. The operation was a success and carried out within a few days. But, of course, it was far less prostitutes and tramps in Moscow in 1980 than it is now.

Communist Leader Announces Opposition To Unite

LD1305084794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 13 May 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Russian Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov announced yesterday that the opposition intends to unite. He said consultations between opposition movements will culminate in a national gathering at the end of May. Zyuganov also disclosed that future plans include preparation of a joint action program for supporters of a people's state in all parties and movements belonging to the united opposition.

Assasin of Deputy Reportedly Known

LD1205145394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1202 GMT 12 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Larisa Kislinskaya]

[Text] Moscow May 12 TASS—"We know who assassinated Deputy of the State Duma Andrey Ayzderdzis," said Chief of the Criminal Investigation Department of the Russian Interior Ministry, Lieutenant-General Vladimir Kolesnikov, at a meeting with journalists on Thursday. Kolesnikov heads a group of investigators responsible for solving this murder case which evoked strong indignation.

The general pointed out that the suspect had not been detained yet. In the interests of the investigation he declined to say whether the suspect was the culprit or a hired assassin. The general said that the murder was committed for a mixture of commercial, political and criminal reasons. The general pointed out that during the investigation law enforcement bodies established a whole group of people suspected of committing a number of other crimes.

Kolesnikov said that as soon as the investigation is over, the investigators will expose misinformation on the case published by the press, especially in part concerning accusations against regional law enforcement bodies.

As for discontent at the slow pace of the investigation expressed by the mayor of the Khimki region, Yuriy Korablin, Kolesnikov said that he would not let any officials put pressure on the investigation. "There are superior bodies to resolve all arising problems, for instance, the general prosecutor's office," Kolesnikov said.

Several Arrested for Murder

LD1205205894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2009 GMT 12 May 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Several people have been arrested in connection with the investigation of the murder of Andrey Ayzderdzis, deputy of the State Duma. Vladimir Kolesnikov, head of the main directorate of the criminal investigation department of the Russian Interior Ministry, announced this to journalists in Moscow on Thursday. We can state that we know who committed the crime, he said; however, the cause of the crime is not yet entirely clear.

Row Involving Deputy Leads to Fatal Shoot-Out

PM1205141394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 May 94 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Another Attempt on a Deputy's Life?"]

[Text] The shooting which occurred on the night of 30 April-1 May involving independent State Duma Deputy Sergey Skorochkin claimed two victims. Duma Security Committee Chairman Viktor Ilyukhin informed deputies of this during yesterday's plenary session of the Federal Assembly's lower house.

He noted that the reason for the shooting was a conflict between Skorochkin and a group of people who, according to the deputy, "did not let the parliamentarian's automobile pass in the direction of his home" in the city of Zaraysk, Moscow Oblast. Skorochkin reported that after the conflict had been resolved one of those who had not allowed the deputy's car through—Tbilisi inhabitant Irakliy Shanidze—started to take an assault rifle out of his car. But the deputy managed to snatch the weapon, after which he headed for the local internal affairs administration to report the incident. However, according to Skorochkin his passage on the way to the internal affairs administration was again blocked by Shanidze, who was carrying another assault rifle. At this time local inhabitant Oksana Guseva was nearby. Shanidze shot at the deputy, who managed to get out of the way. But Guseva was killed. In turn Skorochkin shot and killed Shanidze.

At present, Ilyukhin stressed, the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office is considering whether Skorochkin acted within the bounds of necessary self-defense.

Travkin Appointment Seen as Reward for Signing Accord

PM1205151994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 May 94 p 1

[Fedor Sizyy report: "There Was No Portfolio for Minister Travkin"]

[Text] It is no longer possible to find Nikolay Ilich Travkin in Shakhovskiy Rayon. He has left for Moscow, his secretary replied on the telephone. But to all appearances member of the Government, Minister N. Travkin, appointed on the eve of the holidays by Russian presidential edict, still does not have a working position in the capital. Just try finding a brand-new member of the government when you do not know what range of issues he has actually been put in charge of. Maybe, with his Hero of Socialist Labor medal, he is in charge of construction? Or maybe, knowing that he is closely associated with Stanislav Govorukhin, he is in charge of the fight against corruption?

A polite tenor voice over the telephone from the president's press service passed me on to his government colleagues: "Travkin has been appointed one of their number, after all." There were no further explanations.

At the government press service a surprised female voice replied: "What, has he actually been appointed?" On the off chance, I phoned around several more numbers of the service whose name anyway indicates absolutely clear

tasks—the public relations department. It is staggering that no one could tell me anything sensible. In my search for Minister N. Travkin in the vast "White House" labyrinths I resolved to perform an almost heroic act and phoned the office of Government Apparatus Leader V. Kvasov. His assistant promised to help me collect the necessary information. Alas, after exactly one hour I was handed on yet again—to Sergey Surov, deputy section chief at the government press center.

"It was not the government apparatus that prepared the edict. What is more, it says that Travkin has been appointed a member of the government but certainly not a minister. We have no comment to make," S. Surov replied.

[Sizyy] "Is this appointment a surprise to you?"

[Surov] "Let's say yes. But I do not believe that the matter is closed yet. I think that you could get some kind of explanation from the president's staff," S. Surov said, bidding me good-bye.

People are now saying that Nikolay Travkin is the first minister without portfolio in modern Russian government history. And that his appointment has a direct connection with the Democratic Party of Russia leader's signing of the agreement on national accord. Meaning that the Russian Government is becoming a government of "those in accord."

Government Approves Draft Anti-Epidemic Program

LD1205205794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1934 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] At a Thursday session the Russian cabinet approved on the whole a draft federal program for protecting the territory of the Russian Federation against the appearance and spread of dangerous infectious diseases of human beings, animals and plants as well as toxic substances. The program covers a period between 1994 and 1997.

The head of the State Sanitation Control Agency Yevgeniy Belyayev, who submitted the document, said that the necessity for the comprehensive program is prompted by the growing flow of migrants to Russia, the worsening of the epidemiological situation in CIS and certain foreign countries as well as a sharp increase in imports of poor-quality, harmful goods.

Belyayev said that in 1993 his agency had to ban the sales of 1000 big batches of imported food. A total of 18.2 percent of imported alcoholic drinks do not meet medical standards. The same applies to 7.3 percent of canned food.

The official said that 11 cases of cholera were registered in Russia in 1993, all of foreign origin. In each case three million rubles were spent to prevent an epidemic.

The draft program provides for the formation of a network of sanitary control bodies on the borders, sea and air ports and railway stations.

At the federal level 77 checkpoints should be constructed or modernized in centers for forced migrants, 10 quarantine posts at railway stations, nine veterinary laboratories, 25 plant laboratories and 143 plant quarantine posts on borders. According to Finance Ministry estimates, in 1994 this will require 26 billion rubles of spending.

Media Issues

Government Approves ITAR-TASS Charter

LD1205224794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1710 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 12 May (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Government has approved the Charter of the Russian Telegraph News Agency adopted by the ITAR-TASS staff. It is this abbreviation, which has already become well-known, that has been confirmed by the resolution.

The government of the Russian Federation has become the founder of the state central news agency set up on the basis of the decrees by the Russian president on 22 January 1992 and 22 December 1993,and organized as a state enterprise. ITAR-TASS has been recognized as the successor to the former Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union [TASS].

ITAR-TASS' main tasks are to cover state policy and public life of the Russian Federation, to collect and quickly circulate news and comments about events in Russia and abroad in all spheres - politics and economy, social life and culture, science and technical achievements, and sports. The agency's task also includes providing information to the state bodies of the Russian Federation and to the local and foreign media, enterprises, institutions, public associations, and citizens.

The resolution says that the founder appoints to the post and releases from the post the agency's general director and his or her deputies. In his or her turn, he or she approves the members of the ITAR-TASS collegium which defines the agency's news policy and its current and future tasks, and makes decisions regarding the development and the financial and economic activity of the agency.

The State Committee for the Management of State Property of the Russian Federation has been instructed to legalize the ITAR-TASS ownership of property which belongs to the state and property bought with money from the federal budget and used by the agency while implementing activity specified by its Charter.

Under the Charter, ITAR-TASS builds its relations with Russian and foreign legal and physical persons in all spheres of economic activity on the basis of treaties. The agency has been granted the right to participate in the

establishment and work of international organizations, associations, societies, foundations, enterprises, and other economic entities in Russia and abroad.

Yeltsin Congratulates TV, Radio Workers

LD1205111494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0837 GMT 12 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 12 May—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has congratulated the workforce of the All Russian Television and Radio Company on the occasion of its third anniversary, which is marked today.

"I well remember the first broadcasts of Russian radio and Russian television," the Russian leader commented. "These events were a true festival of democracy and glasnost, the enthusiasm of journalists, and the sincere desire to tell and show the truth.

"Not everything worked out or is working out. There are not a few problems, faced with which, I know, one sometimes loses heart. But stand firm and I am sure that you will succeed honorably in travelling the difficult path of our Russian reforms.

"I will never forget that many-hours-long broadcast of that awful October night [Russian TV's special all-night program during the conflict with the Supreme Soviet in October 1993], which has become a masterpiece of television. I bow before your courage and loyalty to your professional duty. I believe in the enormous creative potential of your workforce. I wish you new successes," the president of Russia stressed.

Strapped Weekly Halts Publication

PM1305092994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 May 94 p 1

[Journalist Andrey Dmitriyev report: "U.S. Publisher Fails To Rescue NOVOYE VREMYA"]

[Text] The contract between the editorial office of NOVOYE VREMYA weekly and U.S. citizen Charles Bausman has been canceled. The "NTI" joint-stock company, set up jointly on an equal footing, will most likely be wound up in the near future.

The editorial office was forced to conclude the contract with the U.S. publisher last August as an alternative to the increasingly complicated relations with the "Novoye Vremya Publishing House," headed by Sergey Dubov, former staffer on the magazine and entrepreneur. The magazine's financial position deteriorated following Dubov's murder this February.

At the same time the editorial office leadership had begun to realize that the contract with the American would not bring the promised prosperity. The contract itself testifies to the naivete of the journalists who signed it and the U.S. businessman's romantic aspirations. The $100,000 invested in the joint business by the magazine and the $50,000 by Mr. Bausman personally is clearly an inadequate sum to revive the once-popular magazine, whose print run has fallen to 30,000 copies.

Consequently the U.S. side's expenditure has already exceeded the $150,000, most of which went on the purchase of a computer publishing system, and the magazine is on the brink of bankruptcy. The contract has been canceled despite the fact that work on a new model of the magazine has been virtually completed and talks with a Finnish print shop have been held.

NOVOYE VREMYA, which is in debt to the MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA print shop and "Rospechat," cannot continue to publish the weekly's next issues.

The editorial office is counting on getting its affairs in order by subletting part of the four-story building it rents in downtown Moscow. An active search for investors has begun in Russian financial circles.

Economic Issues

Dubinin Approves, Gaydar Opposes 1994 Budget

LD1205115394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0918 GMT 12 May 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Robert Serebrennikov]

[Text] Moscow May 12 TASS—"The approved state budget is more realistic than ever before: it offers an opportunity to follow an economic course chosen by the government as well," said Acting Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin, commenting on the Duma's decision to approve a draft law on federal budget of the Russian Federation for 1994 in the first reading.

"According to specified data, the budget was endorsed at 194.4 trillion rubles for expenditures and 124.4 trillion rubles for revenues. The top limit of the budget deficit was estimated at 70 trillion rubles, or 36 per cent of budgetary expenditures. A decision was adopted to look into the problem of more rational use of funds envisaged as financial aid to subjects of the federation," Dubinin said in an interview with ITAR-TASS.

However, leader of the Russia's Choice faction Yegor Gaydar believes that the approval of the federal budget by the State Duma means that a negative tendency which appeared in spring, 1994 will continue to develop. The essence of this tendency is a step-by-step increase in subsidies, growing expenditures envisaged by "investments and subsidies" articles with simultaneous cuts in social allocations, in particular, for culture, science and education.

In an interview with BUSINESS-TASS prominent Russian economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy said that the federal budget in its present form will not change anything and the situation in the country will be the same as it was

before. "Lawmakers do not realise that the budget is the money of all citizens which should be correctly used to prevent the situation from getting worse," Yavlisnkiy said.

Dubinin: Approval 'Recognition of Policy'

LD1205192794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Russian acting Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin told Interfax Thursday that he considered the State Duma's passing of the draft federal budget for 1994 at first hearing as a recognition of the economic policy pursued by the government.

Dubinin said the collection rate of taxes fluctuated around 60 percent at the moment, which is obviously insufficient. The Finance Ministry put forward a number of proposals to increase the tax influx to the state budget. In part, the proposals involve taxation bodies' registering all accounts of enterprises, including hard currency ones, and collecting taxes directly from the accounts.

At the same time, Dubinin pointed out that the tax basis shrank due to an economic decline. He said taxes collected in the first quarter of 1994 were equal to seven percent of the gross domestic product against 10 percent last year. In March, the situation was stabilized at last year's level, he added.

Dubinin supported further improvement of the existing taxation system which needed adjustment rather than reformation. "The existing set of taxes may be reduced, but not changed for another one," he pointed out. Dubinin put a special emphasis on the fact that the federation items had been granted the right to impose their own taxes, a right which it would be "very unreasonable to take away from them."

Dubinin Holds News Conference

LD1205192994 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 12 May 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Confidence in government policy has been obtained from the State Duma. This was stated at a news conference today by the acting finance minister. Sergey Dubinin noted that deputies' criticisms will be taken into account in the finalization of the budget. Therefore, he did not rule out the possibility of a future reduction in the state's administrative apparatus in favor of increased expenditures on science. Dubinin said that the government will endeavor to submit the 1995 budget to parliament as early as September. Moreover, it will be drawn up while taking into account a reform of taxation policy. The supervision of all the accounts of enterprises, including their hard currency, will be more strict.

Dwelling on privatization, Dubinin said that it has not brought the budget any real revenue, since the ideology behind it was based from the outset on a free handout of state property. Forecasting the level of inflation, Dubinin noted that it would be under 10 percent. By the end of the year, a level of between 5 and 7 percent is quite realistic. In his view, the exchange rate for the dollar will not rise above 3,000 rubles.

Slump in Output of Fuel, Energy Carriers

LD1205175994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1527 GMT 12 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[Text] Moscow May 12 TASS—The output of fuel and energy- carriers continues to slump in Russia. The production of oil dropped by 15 per cent in the first quarter of this year as compared to the corresponding period of 1993, the output of coal—by 9 per cent, gas—by almost 1 per cent, light petroleum products—by 12-18 per cent, and electricity—by 4 per cent.

In general, the slump in this sector of the economy remained at last year's level and equalled to 6.5 per cent, ITAR-TASS was told at the Russian Ministry for Fuel and Energy.

In expert opinion, the output of energy resources was negatively influenced not only by the general recession, but also by such factors as default of payments, which reached 19 trillion roubles in the fuel and energy complex alone, regularly delayed budget allocations, and further reduction of investments. Along with general economic factors, experts link the dropping oil output of the recent years with the growing share of deposits on the developed oilfields that yield to extraction with great difficulty.

The marketing of refined products is another factor responsible for slumping oil production, because the consumers have turned insolvent. This explains the stoppage and closure of about 15,000 oil wells, which brought down oil extraction by approximately 4-4.5 million tonnes.

The fuel sector's financial "hunger" has had a negative effect on the processing of crude oil and the production of light petroleum products. Their volumes dropped by 15 per cent in the first quarter of this year as compared to 1993, which equals to more than eight million tonnes.

Unions Reserve Right To Strike

LD1205125094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1015 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Mikhail Shmakov, leader of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, outlined in a letter to the Kremlin chief of staff and the chairman of the Yeltsin-sponsored Public Chamber, the Federation's own view on the Civic Accord which it signed in Moscow 28 April.

To begin with, the Federation says there can be no question of a moratorium on strikes. The unions, it says,

reserve the right to collective action if the government fails to comply with accords on pay and work conditions, employment, and social security guarantees.

The Federation insists that the government must clear its debt of back wages in the first half of 1994 rather than later in the year and help keep intact the existing system of free secondary and vocational education, something that the Accord does not guarantee.

The Federation also demands that its special view is made known to the conciliatory commission and used as a basis for further talks with government officials on controversial points of the Accord.

Agriculture Chief Denies Need for Grain Imports

PM1205132794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 May 94 p 1

[POSTFACTUM report under "Events of the Week" rubric: "Aleksandr Zaveryukha Denies Rumors That Russia Is Holding Talks With United States on Grain Purchases"—from FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA section]

[Text] According to him the freeing of bread prices reduced consumption from 5 million to 2.8 million tonnes last year, since bread is no longer being used to feed livestock. At the same time he noted that distortions in pricing policy are leading to a situation whereby bread is being produced in Russia using a calculation of 200,000 rubles [R] for 1 tonne of wheat, even though agricultural producers are selling bread at R70,000 per tonne. The vice premier also reported that as of today stocks of meat, butter, and sugar are concentrated at depots in large quantities. In Zaveryukha's opinion these products are unwanted because many food products have been imported into Russia.

'Unrealistic' Crop Forecasts Induce Optimism

PM1305091394 Moscow TRUD in Russian 12 May 94 p 1

[Report by Yelena Berezneva: "Expect a Big One. Vice Premier A. Zaveryukha Promises Russia Will Have Its Own Grain in Abundance"]

[Text] At the beginning of May the bulletins on spring field work in a number of regions resembled dispatches from the front:

Rain in Kirov Oblast is proving a serious obstacle to sowing.

Equipment readiness in Novgorod Oblast is very unsatisfactory. One-third of tractors and trucks are out of action. The fuel and seed situation is critical owing to the tardy provision of credits.

In Bryansk Oblast a shortage of mineral fertilizers (some farms can only meet 10 percent of their needs) could reduce the grain yield by more than one-third.

The Orenburg farmers have won back some tracts of land from the spring floods and attacked the furrows, but the situation is complicated by the fact around two million hectares of scheduled fall plowing was not carried out last year.

The workload is enormous, while the countryside is experiencing more than just the traditional problems with spare parts, fuel, and seed. The main problem both for kolkhozes and for private farmers is finance and materials for the spring sowing which is already under way. But there are other problems as well. According to Buryat republic plant protection station data, a massive plague of locusts is expected in the fields. Modern chemicals to combat locusts have been purchased, but the treatment of the land has been delayed because of the shortage of fuel....

Spring has brought some very unsettled weather to the North Caucasus, the Central Chernozem area, and southern part of the Volga area. According to Agriculture Ministry data, nearly one-fifth (a little over twice as much as last year) of the sowings of winter crops in Russia is either dead or too thin. Winter crops have suffered most, as we know, in the breadbasket oblasts of Belgorod, Voronezh, Rostov, and Volgograd, and also in the Kuban—between 29 and 40 percent.

It was confirmed by the Agriculture Ministry arable farming main administration that the pace of this year's sowing work is somewhat higher than last year. But because of the lack of money natural resources are slow to get to farms. Only 16,500 tonnes of spring grain crop seed have been delivered—more than 100,000 tonnes are required. Farmers are still missing one-third of their seed beets and one-half of their corn seed.

The schedule for supplies of lubricants had been only 50-percent implemented by the end of April. The tractor pool is 64,000 down on last year. There are 28,000 fewer plows, 44,000 fewer cultivators, and 41,000 fewer seeders.

The land is being worked to death. By 5 May only 69 million tonnes of organic fertilizers had been spread on the fields, which is half as much as in the first four months of 1993. There has been a 50-percent reducion also in the liming of fields and the provision of mineral fertilizers. Fertilizer application this year will be 75 percent down on the average for 1986-1990. For that reason alone the shortfall in the grain harvest could be 13-15 million tonnes, according to Agriculture Ministry expert forecasts.

Nonetheless, Vice Premier A. Zaveryukha's forecasts were optimistic when he spoke with journalists the other day. He announced that this year's sowing of grain crops is one million hectares ahead of last year's pace. Despite the very difficult weather conditions and unprecedented financial and material problems Russia will have its own grain this year. The gross harvest should be 90-100 million tonnes. The country does not intend to buy any

grain abroad. The government is expecting its own commodity producer—the Russian peasant—to feed us this time.

If our commercial structures go about importing grain, that is their business. If the West provides some extra grain in the form of humanitarian assistance, no one will object. But the state will not spend a kopek more on grain imports, Zaveryukha stressed repeatedly.

On the one hand this optimism will seem to many to be premature and unwarranted—the reports from the regions are very worrying, after all. Maybe he should not be forecasting a decent Russian harvest when the sowing campaign is not even over. The grain harvest is counted in the fall, as everybody knows. And we in Russia waste up to 50 percent of the crop, according to Academician A. Nikonov, director of the agrarian institute.

On the other hand I personally find A. Zaveryukha's optimism reassuring. Thank goodness, the government has at last found a voice, formed its own position: Make plans with the support of the peasants for a more efficient sector, beginning with the practice of providing harvest credits, right through to integrating production, the processing industry, and trade.

Four to six weeks ago the impression was that the executive authorities' eyelids would droop whenever there was a mention of a program to develop the agroindustrial complex, not reacting at all to the call to help a countryside that had been bled white. The government is no longer silent. So I would like to believe in harvest-94. No matter how unrealistic today's good forecasts may appear.

...It is an amazing country with an amazing countryside. Not long ago the people feared that there might be no sowing at all, because there was no equipment, fertilizer, or seed and no money to buy it all. But no. Field work is in progress. And, most amazing of all, at a faster pace than last year.

Military Issues

Defense Ministry Official Says Budget Inadequate

LD1205143494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1315 GMT 12 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow May 12 TASS—"The Russian military budget of 37 trillion roubles, approved by the State Duma for the current year, does not guarantee the survival of the Russian Army, ITAR-TASS was told by head of the Defence Ministry's chief budget and finance board Colonel-General Vasiliy Vorobyov.

In the opinion of the Defence Ministry, all the articles of the military budget are underfinanced. Particularly alarming is the problem of cash allowances to servicemen. The Russian Finance Ministry monthly issues funds for this purpose which are not enough to pay allowances to one-third of the officers and noncoms. Under the new budget 50 per cent of the personnel will get their cash allowances with intervals, sometimes lasting from two to three months. "The situation is also alarming as regards allocations for armaments, military hardware, property, capital repairs and maintenance, scientific and technological needs," Vorobyov stated.

Shortage of money for the minimum requirements of the Army, the latter's insolvency has brought about a situation when some regional authorities have begun to cut off electric power supply to military installations, ensuring Russia's security. For instance, power workers of Archangel region had cut off power supply to a considerable part of the local strategic missile forces testing ground. Notifications are being received regularly by anti-aircraft defence units, including their central command station. "It is clear to everybody, even to a person poorly versed in national security problems, that such a situation is frought with very dangerous consequences," the general stressed.

Defense Enterprise Tests 'Underground Missile'

LD1205143394 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 11 May 94

[From the "Special Report" feature]

[Text] The Soyuz defense enterprise today [11 May] secretly tested underground missiles [podzemnye rakety] at the Moscow region aviation systems testing ground. So why is all this called an underground missile?

[Vyacheslav Kuriolvich, section head of Soyuz scientific and production association, identified by screen caption] Because it moves through the ground like other missiles do through the air.

[Correspondent] Underground missiles can travel deep underground, even in areas which are inaccessible for other equipment. There are three reasons why defense specialists have developed this underground apparatus.

First, a critical mass of used missiles has built up in Defense Ministry stores. This fitting [ustanovka] gives them a second life. The people who developed it made it in such a way that once the missile has burrowed into the earth, it comes back up again, and can be used 10 more times.

The second reason: Over the past 10 years, four explosions have taken place in military stores, as a result of which people were killed. So....

[Kurilovich] This is one of the best ways of getting rid of weapons. If they just lie around, somebody will use them.

[Correspondent] And the third reason, also important: In the context of conversion, which has begun in Russia, and the related possibility of unemployment for defense industry workers. The (?Grab) underground missile promises new work.

But the (?Grab) underground missile is not the first development of this kind. Even during his first visit to America, Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev boasted to the Americans that Russia had developed an underground vessel which burrowed through the earth at a speed of 60 meters per hour. But all the tests were secret, because the military laid down secret communication lines with the aid of this apparatus.

The basis of today's underground missile system is the Grad multiple launch rocket system [MLRS]. Grad is a weapon of mass destruction with a 20-square kilometer destruction zone.

The service life of a Grad launcher is 15-20 years. The military think the underground Grad can be used for economic purposes, in particular for laying down electricity lines in inaccessible mountainous areas.

[Vyacheslav Vlasov, section head at aviation systems testing ground—identified by screen caption] It is not only the Grad rockets, but certain types of air-to-air missiles [AAM] that can also be used for these purposes.

[Correspondent] Incidentally, it is not only the military that is developing uses for underground missile systems. The Moscow Aviation Institute has thought of an original (?Grab) system for burying radioactive fuel underground.

The Soyuz scientific and production association [NPO] takes the missiles to the testing ground in the Moscow region in armored trucks under guard. The military parts are detached from the barrel of the missile and replaced by a steel drilling head at the testing ground. The head weighs five to seven kilos, and just as in a normal surface missile there are 20 kilos of powder [porokh] in the underground missile.

So, the same safety rules as for testing surface missiles apply when testing underground missiles. Everybody on the testing ground during the explosion must be in a secure shelter. The shock wave throws huge lumps of earth many meters, and this is not safe. But an exception was made for NTV.

[Kurilovich] It's your risk, it's your life. [Words indistinct] the real shell flies 30 kms.

[Correspondent] The missile travels at 4 meters per second. The depth of the shaft can be up to 30 meters, with a diameter of up to 150 centimers. Isn't all this offensive for somebody who has worked a long time?

[Vlasov] Well, in theory of course it's offensive. But it would be even worse if they were to use these things for their original purpose.

Shaposhnikov on Arms Trade, Defense Sector

PM1205134594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 May 94 p 5

[Article by Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov: "From Reasonable Sufficiency to Sufficient Reasonableness"]

[Text] Today there is an excessive amount of talk about selling weapons: Should we do it or not, is it profitable or not, is it moral or not. The common characteristic of this talk is that it is futile, and sometimes harmful.

This is a matter of a state monopoly, and it should be in the hands of people vested with certain powers and, naturally, possessing high professional and civil qualities. This is essentially why broad discussion of the problem of arms exports is futile.

Another issue connected with the excessive boom in information about this topic is directly harmful, since as a result our rivals, clients, and ill-wishers get the opportunity to take advantage of this information. I am no advocate of covering up the disgraceful phenomena that take place here (dubious deals, the misappropriation of proceeds, unscrupulousness on the part of the participants, and so forth). What I am talking about is excessive loquacity, and not about the negligence of certain individuals, but about the essence of our state interests. Because while we are throwing up our hands in horror, sighing, and lamenting we may lose the market once and for all without ever having learned to trade.

And it is the sacred truth that we have never traded in arms, because we always supplied them on the basis of secret and non-secret talks between contracting parties' top people, often according to the principle: "Do you respect me, do you support my socialism?" And if you do respect me and support it, you can have a consignment of tanks or aircraft on a credit of around 30 or 40 years (until the final victory of communism on the planet).

We garnered so much respect that nowadays many countries and regimes that respect us owe us several tens of billions of dollars which they are very unlikely to repay either today or in the future.

It is now very difficult to name the annual sums that our state used to make in those days out of arms sales and it is even more difficult to determine where the money went. Especially as for a number of reasons this question interested few people then, and of those who were on top of it, "some are no longer with us, and others are far away."

But the most important point was that this money was not spent on the reproduction of our industry, but frittered away in our struggle for a bright future on a world scale.

Since the latter half of the eighties there have been a number of trends and phenomena in world arms exports which Russia must take into account if it is to avoid serious losses.

The main trend of the "new era" is that the world arms market has begun to shrink both in real terms and in current prices. This stems from a number of political, economic, and strategic factors. The Cold War has ended (at present more in notional terms than in reality) and there has been progress in the sphere of cuts in conventional arms. The conversion of defense enterprises is under way (and not only in our country). Economic difficulties in the Third World countries—our traditional partners in arms exports—have worsened. UN sanctions have been tightened up, again mostly against our traditional and most solvent partners. Some importer-states now have their own military industry.

Simultaneously with this factors tending in the opposite direction, namely directed toward increasing arms exports, have emerged and are beginning to operate. New "trouble spots" have emerged on the map of the world. The world community and its numerous agencies have proved unable to settle conflicts by political means. The structure of demand in the world arms market has changed, and the market is now more geared to purchasing modern and state-of-the-art models of military hardware. Countries which in the recent past were regarded as arms importers are attempting (with some success) to break into the arms market.

Analysis of these two trends shows that, despite a reduction in the volumes of arms exports on the world market, the market will not vanish. Competition will sharpen, and the market will acquire a clear craving for state-of-the-art arms systems and technologies.

These trends have affected Russia from two directions, but their tendency is the same—willy-nilly to squeeze Russia out of the international market. The first is based on "purely Russian" factors which we encounter daily and hourly: the general mismanagement and laxity which parasitizes on shortcomings in the economic reform and the controllability of the state. Its essence is that overly large numbers of "experts" and "specialists" in the delicate matter of arms sales have appeared in Russia since the early nineties. On the most plausible pretexts (social protection, saving producers, and so forth) they are setting up state and "quasi-state" funds, organizations, and other parasitical structures (on the principle that every cockroach considers itself a homeowner).

They have got their eyes on this "tasty morsel," are competing with each other to the detriment of our state, and are locked in covert and overt struggle against each other, with the result that clients are confused, the market is lost, and our country's prestige in the eyes of potential and actual partners declines. They view us as an unstable country, with all ensuing consequences.

The answer to the eternal question "Who benefits by this?" is clear—our competitors benefit, as do all these newfound parasitical structures and particular (but numerous) individuals who do not care about the country's interests. They want profits, offices, imported cars, foreign travel, and more profits.

The aforementioned "purely Russian" features are certainly harmful, dangerous, and criminal. They must be stopped (rooted out) "by revolutionary means"—I will not shrink from that expression. But there is another aspect which is just as dangerous—dangerous in that in a few years we may find ourselves in a position where we not only have nothing to sell, we have nothing to defend ourselves with either should the need arise.

I will be revealing no secret if I say that our military-industrial complex is in extremely profound crisis today. The roots of that crisis go back to the late eighties, but it has emerged most clearly since 1991-1992.

The liberalization of prices emphatically changed the conditions of enterprises' economic activity, the main essence of which was the decline in demand for many types of output. Galloping inflation, the continuous rise in prices and the ineffectiveness of the credit system led to inertia on the part of the state and, of course, of enterprises.

This was followed by a sharp decrease in the volume of production of both consumer goods (especially metal-intensive goods) and military output (equally metal-intensive), which resulted in a sharp decrease in metal consumption by our industry.

I will cite just one example, that of aluminum. Aluminum production in Russia declined by only 8 percent from 1990 through 1993, while consumption declined by 50 percent, but exports from Russia more than tripled. The regions received sales quotas. But, lacking trade experience, they began to seek middlemen, often dubious ones; the latter in turn began to find insolvent and unscrupulous partners (see the analogy with arms sales?). The market was flooded with aluminum.

As a result aluminum prices on the international market have almost halved ($1,950 per tonne in 1989, $1,000 per tonne in 1994).

Thus less and less metal is being produced and consumed in our country, exports are increasing, and prices are falling. (This applies not only to aluminum but also to other raw material commodities.)

It is easy to see that unless this process too is stopped, we will be forced to close our production capacities and to switch to exporting metals, energy sources, and other raw material resources. Who benefits by this? Not Russia, of course.

By way of illustration I will tell you the value of certain goods in the international market. Reducing them to weight terms, 1 kg of a modern fighter is worth $3,000, 1

kg of a civilian aircraft is worth $1,000, 1 kg of electronics is worth $100, and 1 kg of metal shovels is worth $1 (the same as 1 kg of aluminum).

It is easy to see that it is very profitable to sell modern fighters, like other military and civilian products. They embody the highest scientific potential, the most complex technologies, huge labor resources, and the best trained specialists. It is not only stupid but criminal to destroy and lose all this.

On the other hand it is also unreasonable and unprofitable to support the military-industrial complex in its old form. Especially as the leaders of the military-industrial complex themselves not only are aware of but also understand the necessity of reform. Their only "shortcoming" is boundless faith in the strength of the state and its structures, where, though there has been talk of reasonable sufficiency in defense building and of the need for conversion, downsizing, and privatization, they have never answered the questions that are most important to producers: What to cut and by how much, which defense enterprises should be privatized, what to convert and how much, what arms does our Army need, what science and production infrastructure should be left for the future, how many production capacities should be modernized to produce promising weapons, and how many should be kept in reserve for a special period?

You will agree that these are the tasks primarily of state organs, not of the "Red directors," who are having an increasingly hard time between the hammer and the anvil, namely, between silent state structures and uneasy labor collectives.

The main shortcoming of state structures today is that there is no integrated concept for the reform of the military-industrial complex in the light of the country's real defense needs both today and in the future. The ministries and departments studying these problems (the Defense Ministry, the State Committee for the Defense Industry, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economics) are unable to resolve them alone. Gathered together, they defend departmental interests. There is no organ such as the Council of Ministers Military-Industrial Commission (which existed under the USSR). But there is a military-industrial complex that is flying off the rails, there are the remnants of our arms and strategically important raw materials flying abroad.

Thus it is easy to see that where we should be engaging in reform, survival, and rescue there are no reformers and rescuers, but where there is something to sell there are swarms of them, and, along with the economic damage, this is leading us to moral degeneration: People are being torn away from productive labor, gradually turning into storekeepers to whom the state's interests mean nothing. And this is just as much of a danger as losing the military-industrial complex.

What am I proposing should be done? First, in view of the creation of "Rosvooruzheniye," the state company for the export and import of arms and military equipment, all other organizations, structures, and funds must be debarred from the arms trade.

Second, we must urgently adopt a legislative and legal basis regarding the arms trade, placing this process within the mainstream of state interests and under the state's control in such a way as to ensure that both amateurs and "professionals" at making easy money cannot pass through the legislative barriers and enter it.

Third, we must elaborate a concept for the reform of the military-industrial complex which could be made up of a number of harmonized, coordinated, and interconnected state programs: an armaments program clearly defining our Army's real needs both today and for the future; a program of military-technical cooperation with foreign countries (especially with the CIS states) taking into account Russia's long-term interests and the potential and features of our traditional and potential partners; a program for the recycling and destruction of arms, military equipment, hardware, and ammunition that our Army does not need and that are unsuitable for the national economy and unacceptable for sale on the external arms market, tasking reserve production capacities with this, thereby also retaining the requisite number of them for a special period; a program for the conversion and reduction of science and production capacities or for tasking them with producing consumer goods on the basis of technologies as close as possible to military output.

Fourth, on the basis of these state programs we must carry out a kind of inventory of all the science-and-production capacities of the military-industrial complex in strict accordance with the concept for its reform and in order to reach a decision and leave the necessary capacities, convert duplicate ones, allow surplus ones to be privatized, cut unnecessary ones, and provide work for reserve ones.

Fifth, we must impose strict order in the sale of strategically important raw materials. I am convinced that if we carried out a total inspection of all deals regarding these materials since 1992 and returned all the financial proceeds to our country, the budget deficit would decrease substantially and the authority of state structures would increase.

There are a few special areas. Reducing the number of different models and versions of military hardware and arms. No country in the world can stand diversity here (around 100 models and versions of combat aircraft in the air force alone). Add to that the plethora of types of ammunition, fuels and lubricants, and spares. And you get a really mind-boggling picture.

There is a need for the strictest standardization. The time has also come to preclude the duplication that is all too rife in scientific development work too. There is a need for measures to shorten the time between projects on paper and their actual implementation, maybe even via the sale of these projects or developed prototypes to

long-term and reliable partners. The proceeds could be used to develop and introduce new arms systems for our own use....

The successful solution of these most important state problems, in my view, involves a switch from reasonable sufficiency to the principles of sufficient reasonableness, and not only in defense building but also in other spheres.

The aforementioned directions are largely organizational and do not require much material investment. They will take time, the desire, responsibility, and resolve. And they will bring savings and profitability.

But, of course, before that and during the transitional period the profound reform of the military-industrial complex and its upkeep will require considerable funds. The state lacks these. Therefore there is no point in waiting for something to turn up.

There is a great deal of talk at the moment about creating financial and industrial groups in the defense complex. This has its supporters and its opponents. I don't want to be the repository of ultimate truth, but I must say that, despite a number of shortcomings with respect to authorization to set them up, these are a kind of lifebelt for the military-industrial complex. And the potential shortcomings can be balanced and eliminated via organization and monitoring on the part of, once again, state structures and their organs without leaving everything to the hapless producers and all kinds of financial entities—especially those with a dubious reputation—that are dying to get their hands on them.

We need a plan, we need conditions, there must be a mechanism based primarily on state interests. For instance, we need a strict tender imposing certain requirements on banks wishing to be founders of financial and industrial groups.

On the other hand, we also need state aid to these financial and industrial groups: to some in the form of subsidies, to others in the form of exemption from certain types of taxes, at least initially. But at any rate the process must be regulated and controlled by the state. Because if the state leaves this to the mercy of fate, there are grounds for believing that these financial and industrial groups will abandon the state. And this too is not in Russia's interests.

Kokoshin on Development of Weapons System

MK1305075094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 May 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In the Interests of Developing Promising Technologies"]

[Text] The first sitting of the presidium of the Russian Academy of Rocket and Artillery Sciences (RARAS), recently reinstated by a Russian Federation presidential edict, has taken place in Moscow. Taking part in the sitting was Andrey Kokoshin, Russian Federation first deputy defense minister.

The Russian Academy of Rocket and Artillery Sciences, he underlined in his address, is supposed to be an important body bringing together leading scholars in various fields. Its main task is to develop promising technologies for weapons systems using artillery and rocket arms. Among these are a series of baseline military technologies that occupy an intermediate position, as it were, between basic research and applied development.

In the words of the first deputy defense minister, among the Russian military technology priorities is the creation of intelligent weapon systems capable of striking primarily the "nerve centers" of the opposing side's armed forces, and putting out of commission the enemy's combat equipment.

Despite the enormous difficulties of financing the defense needs, the Defense Ministry is doing all it can to ensure progress in these priorities. And here we have, in the past two years, a whole range of world-level achievements, Colonel General Anatoliy Sitnov, chief of armaments of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, pointed out in his address.

The RARAS presidium also discussed a range of specific areas of scientific research and development in line with the decisions made by the Russian Defense Ministry Council on Military-Technical Policy.

Border Troops Chief on Present, Future Roles

MK1205125094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 12 May 94 p 1

[Interview with Andrey Nikolayev, commander in chief of the Russian Border Troops, by Dmitriy Kholodov: "A Border Is a Relative Term. Border Troops Commander Andrey Nikolayev: '"Keep Out'—an Absolutely Incompetent Approach"—place and date not given]

[Excerpts] As he left the post of first deputy chief of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff "to become a border guard," Nikolayev is said to have "coaxed" many of his former subordinates to follow him. There are about 40 of them, who are called "watermelons" because they are green as border guard shoulder boards on the outside, but inside they are as red as army shoulder boards. They have brought along lots of new things to the border troop service. Nikolayev has tested new methods of command and control of the border troops by setting up a "mini-general staff," particularly the central command post, something hitherto unheard of in the border troops. Coordination between the army and the border troops has been established on the Tajik border. The practice of publishing intelligence reports on the eve of mujahidin assaults helps maintain a more or less peaceful existence.

Of all newspapers, the commander in chief of the Russian Border Troops has given MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS his first interview.

[Kholodov] Andrey Ivanovich, one of these days marks precisely nine months since you were placed in command of the border troops. This is a period sufficient even to give birth to a baby. Have you managed to push through any changes in the border service?

[Nikolayev] Even recently the Russian Border Troops have been merely a main service of the Security Ministry. It has been for four months now (from 1 December) that they turned into a federal service that, according to its status, is not simply a ministry, but an agency that shapes state policy in the area of border protection. Now the border is not merely a line where a border guard in uniform fulfills his service duties, but a frontier from which the state begins. [passage omitted]

[Kholodov] Are you subordinate to the Federal Counterintelligence Service director? Can he, say, "summon" you?

[Nikolayev] I report only to the president.

[Kholodov] In addition, you have become a member of the Security Council and your agency has turned from a command into a main command...

[Nikolayev] Not quite so. We are "the Federal Border Service—the Main Command of the Border Troops." [passage omitted]

[Kholodov] The length of the Russian state border is 60,932.8 km. Of them, 14,000 km (more than 80 percent of the land border) are new borders that have effectively not been formalized from the point of view of international law. In 1993, 43 million people crossed the Russian border, which amounts to a 21-fold increase against previous years.

[Nikolayev] The very concept of border protection has also changed. The old "compression concept" said that Russia should draw back into its territory. It has a border and the border must be protected. But a question arose: Where do Russian interests lie? Where should its security be protected? We say: We must ensure Russia's security along its national borders and also along advanced lines within the Commonwealth. Why should we set up a new border with Kazakhstan that is over 6,500 km long? There is no infrastructure there. But everything we need is on the old border. Then why shouldn't we protect it jointly, defending Russian interests THERE? Internal borders within the CIS, however, should be made transparent. They tell us: You want to restore the borders of the USSR. But first of all we want to ensure Russia's national interests. The Russian state spent ages to reach those borders to throw them away overnight.

[Kholodov] Then, a question. Why should borders be transparent only within the Commonwealth? For instance, wouldn't Azerbaijan like to have a transparent border with Turkey or Iran?

[Nikolayev] Everyone says: We are sovereign. But Russia is also a sovereign state. We have presented Azerbaijan with a choice: Either it takes part in the joint border protection system that includes Russia, or we will close the Russian-Azerbaijani border, something we have actively been doing at present. They say: We want this border to remain transparent. Then ensure our interests on the "external" border, and we will not erect this one. We have already signed treaties with Armenia and Georgia. Russian border guards protect the border there and are financed on a shared basis—50:50 with Armenia and 60:40 with Georgia, including soldiers, officer personnel, and contractees. Moreover, in the Caucasus we had to build a border in an unconventional way—in two lines. The first one is drawn along the former USSR border. But owing to civil wars the Caucasus is currently oversaturated with arms and drugs; because of an open border between Azerbaijan and Iran everyone may walk there whichever way he likes. This is why we are setting up the second line of border control in the North Caucasus. This is not a troop line—there are no fences there, only border checkpoints and operational units, including troops, that ensure control in between these points.

[Kholodov] Can you estimate how much money Russia will have to throw away on restoring the border?

[Nikolayev] Finances are for the most part Azerbaijan's problem. We, too, can take part by providing technical assistance. We are interested in having the border patrolled by aviation. And, of course, the Caspian Sea. If we fail to draw a clear line there at this stage, say, Gasan-Kuli-Astafa, then there will be a free zone inside the sea and everyone will be able to set up rigs even outside Astrakhan.

[Kholodov] And another "Putina" [anti-poaching operation launched this year in the Far East] will have to be launched?

[Nikolayev] I do not think we will wait for a situation that has necessitated "Putina" in the Far East to come about. Starting the second half of May, or in June at the latest, we will start combating poaching in the Caspian, Black, Azov, and Barents Seas.

[Kholodov] A global "Putina?"

[Nikolayev] "Putina" is not at issue. For instance, in the Kaliningrad area there are contentious matters with regard to drawing our sea border with Lithuania. According to international law, it must be drawn perpendicularly to the coast. The Lithuanians interpret this provision in a different way. So, a divergence angle is emerging. There is oil and gas within the angle. Large deposits at that. Today we sent a joint note with the Foreign Ministry to notify the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry that our ships will carry out border protection there.

They are protecting not only biological reserves—fish or crabs, as "Putina" does—but mineral resources as well.

[Kholodov] As a matter of fact, the Baltic border has already become a legend. They say that Estonia ranks nearly first in the world in nonferrous metal exports that are taken out of Russia. Can't a stop be put to this?

[Nikolayev] When a civilian says—"Close the border"—he should bear in mind that currently 1 km of it costs 1 billion rubles. As for the Baltics, we must have a tight border with them.

[Kholodov] With dogs and a fence?

[Nikolayev] I would not say so. The form will be different, but some sectors will be covered by artificial obstacles and radar equipment. The dogs will be there, too, because at present a dog virtually cannot be replaced with anything else.

[Kholodov] But the Baltics, too, have once been a zone of Russian interests, haven't they?

[Nikolayev] A zone of interests is not only where our troops are present on another state's territory. For instance, in Belarus we do not have our border guards at all. But there is an agreement whereby Belarus, represented by its border troops, undertook to ensure Russian interests on its western border. [passage omitted]

[Kholodov] How do you see the future of the border troops?

[Nikolayev] I see them as a civilian agency that will include a military structure. The military function will not be of key importance. The main thing will be cooperation—in the protection of borders with neighbors, checkpoints, operational work, including the exposure of criminal groups.

[Kholodov] Why shouldn't we set up a civilian agency at once? An agency that will include a customs service. After all, you are protecting the same thing—the border—aren't you?

[Nikolayev] I think that in the long run, in 5-10 years or so, their convergence is possible. But this is not a mechanical process. This won't do—you, you, and you will work together. In the customs service, they have a different area of expertise. Although—in exceptional cases—we sometimes do take over customs control.

On the other hand, the struggle against smuggling. "Putina"—the struggle against unauthorized fishing—is a concern of the fisheries committee. But the committee does not have the money—an entire fleet has to be deployed for this purpose.

[Kholodov] Does it pay, I mean what you have already deployed there?

[Nikolayev] It is even hard to estimate how much it pays. We are working for the long-term prospects—to restore the reserves of salmon, crabs, and so forth. The border has to be protected anyway, whether they try to sneak in or not. But now we need to be economical—we may well sell fishing licenses where the situation allows. I have told Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin—people should see the results. We should earn money. It's no use striking an attitude of a dog in the manger—neither eat ourselves nor let others eat.

Operation To Catch Illegal Fishers Modified

LD1205140694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1015 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] The Pacific Fleet has changed the composition of ships taking part in the Putina-94 operation aimed at combating illegal sea fishing in the Far East.

Throughout several weeks of the first stage, from April 20 to May 10, two trawlers controlled the catch and the use of fish resources of Russia in the Aniv Bay. They are to be replaced by two sea trawlers which will patrol in the Sea of Japan, Interfax was told by a spokesman for the Pacific Fleet.

During the first stage of the operation, crews of over 20 Russian and four foreign vessels were brought to justice, Interfax was told by the commander of the Pacific Border Guard District, Major General Vitaliy Sedykh.

He said that about 700 vessels, including 200 foreign ones were spotted in Russia's economic zone. Of this number, over 100 Russian and over 20 foreign vessels have been checked.

Besides the Pacific Fleet, taking part in the operation were vessels of the Pacific Border Guard District, vessels of fish protection organizations Primorryba and Sakhrybvoda, staff members of the federal counterintelligence service and of the Far Eastern customs department.

Federal Assembly

Chernomyrdin Creates Government Standing Conference Body

LD1205135594 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has signed a decision on setting up a standing working conference of the Russian Federation Government. It is the aim of the conference to enhance cooperation between the Government and the executive authorities of the Russian Federation's constituent parts, and to ensure that decisions on issues concerning the implementation of economic reforms and regional, social, and economic development are agreed upon in advance.

Presidium Approves Bills on Civil Defense, Land Code

LD1205140994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1120 GMT 12 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow May 12 TASS—The bill on the Russian land code undoubtedly became the main issue discussed on Thursday by the Presidium of the Russian Government. Following numerous remarks by ministers and heads of departments, the bill was adopted as a whole.

A decision was made to submit the land code to the Russian Parliament lower chamber on June 2 after it is finalised.

"The land code which is still a bill, interferes with reforms", Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin summed up speeches on this top priority issue for Russia. "The absence of the legislative basis retards reforms in the agricultural sector and blocks channels for domestic and foreign investors.

"On the other hand, we must not leave unsettled issues and legal contradictions," the premier stressed.

Vice-Premiers Sergey Shakhray and Anatoliy Chubays spoke about the above problems when discussing the land code bill. They were interested in how members of the Russian Federation will behave themselves when the land code is adopted.

They also asked why the bill favours the principle of state regulation of land relations at the expense of the rights of owner, including foreigners. The vice-premiers suggested that the document be finalised by the Government without shifting this task onto legislators.

The Government Presidium also approved the bill on civil defence as a whole.

State Duma Committee Analyzes Foreign Debt

LD1205222394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1340 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 12 May (BUSINESS-TASS)—Russia's foreign debt (not counting its indebtedness to Eastern European countries and overdue commercial payments) at the start of 1994 exceeded 80 billion dollars. That figure is cited in a memorandum drawn up by the State Duma Committee on the Budget, Taxation, Banks, and Finances.

The annual payments that Russia was committed to make under the schedule for servicing debt and repaying principal in 1992-93 were in excess of 20 billion dollars. However, thanks to successful negotiations with creditors Russia was able to limit itself last year to paying out only 2.2 billion dollars. During the current year the Russian Government intends to pay a further 4.7 billion dollars.

Last year Russia obtained from foreign governments credits totalling 4.4 billion dollars. The biggest creditor was Germany, which provided 2.4 billion dollars. The top three creditors also included France (providing 680 million dollars) and the United States (providing 671 million dollars). Our eastern neighbor, Japan, provided only 140 million dollars in credit, but nevertheless, it outstripped Canada, Turkey, and the Netherlands.

In 1994 the government is expecting to obtain credits totalling 2.8 billion dollars. Germany will keep its lead in this sphere. It will be followed by Italy, the United States, and Japan, which is proposing to increase the amount of its credit by 150 percent.

Almost half of the foreign credits last year went to agriculture and the food industry, in the main for grain purchases, while the rest went to industry, transport, communications, municipal services, environmental protection, the medical industry, and the purchase of medical supplies.

In 1994 it is planned to direct the credits in the main to industry and agriculture. A total of 650 million dollars will be earmarked for the medical industry and the purchase of medical supplies. In comparison with last year it is planned to reduce 13- fold the outlay of credits for the purchase of grain—to 100 million dollars.

At the same time, Russia has continued providing foreign states with credit. In particular, credits have been issued over the past two years to India, Cuba, Algeria, and Pakistan totalling 1.8 billion dollars.

Rybkin on 'Independent' Role in Duma

PM1205142494 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 12 May 94 pp 1-2

[Interview with Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation State Duma, by ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI chief editor Valeriy Kucher; date and place not given: "Fifth Attempt To Establish Russian Parliamentarianism"]

[Text] People of a pragmatic disposition sometimes feel uncomfortable in Russian political circles even though they hold key posts. Maybe the urge to engage in exciting politics is so strong in our consciousness, after the years oppressed by stagnation, that we are inclined to deify the destroyers and the romantics rather than giving due credit to cautious and responsible politicians.

In the ruling strata they are, so to speak, in the dugout, although they are on the team. It is not surprising that pragmatists are required to make considerably more sacrifices and produce more proofs of loyalty to democracy than are indulged in by their suspicious colleagues who are also their opponents.

It is probably for this reason that State Duma Chairman Ivan Petrovich Rybkin has not yet established his image. Maybe this is partly his personal "fault" too—as a man who does not go in for showy moves, although on

occasion, maybe, this is a mistake: Populism, as a temporary measure, is sometimes necessary.

The feigned refusal to recognize Ivan Rybkin as an independent political figure, the emphasis on the bare facts of his resume, and also the deliberate cultivation of the image of a "turncoat" and "traitor" and the underestimation of his strategic potential, are damaging not so much to his personal authority and the prestige of the legislators, as to the prestige of state power in general. It is time people realized this! If all this is true, what kind of Duma have we elected, if that is the kind of speaker it has? Are we capable of electing worthy rulers at all?

A study of the logic of the establishment of the new power in Russia (and that is ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI's main topic) requires us to look frankly at the political figures of today—without party blinders, myths and gossip, or dogmas, and especially without devising cages of official powers for them. Asking questions does not mean eulogizing, and doubting does not mean rejecting.

I feel that Rybkin's "novelty" as a politician is more or less unique. He differs from previous figures who have declared centrist positions but have soon drifted to right or left, in that one camp has not accepted him, and the other has rejected him. The way to the right and to the left is now closed for him, he is objectively obliged to remain in the center, and he has a unique opportunity to construct a centrist stance.

Rybkin also differs from other politicians in that he does not repudiate his own past. He is moving toward the supporters of the new Constitution, becoming a kind of bridge between those in power and the opposition. You can reject that. You can assess it however you like. But you have to reckon with it.

Ivan Petrovich Rybkin is on his way. What lies in store for him and how he will then behave, nobody can know. Although the experience of his 100 days as speaker reveals much about the personality of this politician. Read our interview with him on page 2:

[Interview begins] [Kucher] The State Duma's two-year term could be a crucial period for the future of Russian parliamentarianism. I am not talking about the quantitative parameters of its work. Let us leave aside, for the moment, the number of laws adopted and to be adopted. I am talking about the fact that there is a historic opportunity, in these two years, to lay the foundations of a real parliamentarianism for our country, provided, of course, that we can shake off the spirit and traditions of the Supreme Soviet, which unfortunately are transferred from one Duma building to another along with the deputies.... Is it possible that ridding parliament of features that are alien to it could help it to move from the flanks toward the center?

[Rybkin] I agree with you that Russia has long needed a proper lawmaking process. There are many gaps in this. At times, everything hangs by a mere thread. But I would not repudiate a single day of the history of Russian parliamentarianism. When people say that our parliament does not have much history, I do not accept that conclusion. What about the people's assembly in ancient Novgorod—is that not part of our heritage? Or take the Zemskiy Sobor [assembly] which elected the czar in the terrible Time of Troubles. Then there was the State Council and the senate. There have been four State Dumas in Russia. I have carefully studied their history, and I am familiar with both the happy and the tragic chapters. And I have arrived at the firm conviction that the idea of centrism is the dominant idea.

When this center was found, and there was support from the left and right wings, Russia lived peacefully and pursued the reforms it had undertaken. But when people leaned toward one wing, they suffered very serious upheavals. Therefore the people who championed the idea of the center are very dear to me as historical figures.

[Kucher] You left the leadership component of the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] on your own initiative, giving preference to the Agrarian Party of Russia. Does this step on your part confirm that you pin your hopes of creating a center party on the "agrarians"?

[Rybkin] People tell me: The Agrarian Party is a conservative party. To some extent that is true, because it conserves the attitudes that form the genetic basis of the people. This is a weakness, but also a great strength. Every society must understand that it will have prosperity when the peasants enjoy success. Some 40 percent of the national product is created in the agro-industrial complex. That is the reality. And it is so not because some people support or do not support the Agrarian Party, although I myself am an agrarian—I have had links with the peasants for the greater part of my life. If the peasants start to live prosperously, the Agrarian Party itself will be a party of the middle stratum, which is to say, the center. Those industrial workers who are able to live as well as the peasants will join the party. And I very much want the stratum of those who are prosperous to be a big one, and the center to be big. The country will thereby be strong.

[Kucher] What do we want, in the last analysis? What are we building? Should we give all this some kind of name, define it?...

[Rybkin] We should stop trying to delude people with all kinds of definitions. We have gone through the whole range of concepts. Let us turn our gaze to the north. There, life is more difficult, it is more difficult to build, to organize life. The ruling Social Democrats in Sweden, for instance, do not give any name to the society they live in. But the gulf between those who are very rich and those of average prosperity is three-, four-, or fivefold. In our country we never had this normal kind of inequality, it was abnormal, and now it is even more so. The gulf is enormous. So all the levers of influence must be used to prevent society from becoming so sharply stratified:

through tax inspection, self-restraint, and properly perceived state interest, and by appealing to entrepreneurs' patriotic feelings.

We have seen all this before in Russia's history, when businesspeople respected its laws and understood their role in the country's prosperity. I am not calling for a return to the past. But I know that many of the present representatives of national capital are well disposed toward cooperation with the state as partners. The $1.5-2 billion that goes abroad every year could and should be brought back home. Not directly, of course, not by way of administrative pressure, but with the help of economic measures, that is, voluntarily. The law must be applied to those who steal. But for those who cannot yet find scope in Russia for their minds and talents and who have to invest the capital they have earned at 5 percent in a foreign bank rather than receiving an income of 500 percent in their native state—for those people it is simply essential that we find guarantees for their work. Maybe through the creation of transnational corporations or by other means.

I have always believed that our people have fine qualities which you cannot buy for any money. Saint-Exupery called this the luxury of human contact. In Russia there has always been plenty of this. It must be valued. Handed down from generation to generation.

[Kucher] You touched on the subject of the people's historical memory. I would like to ask you a question directly concerning recent political history. You once stressed in an interview that you attach particular value to the Lenin of the times of the NEP [new economic policy]. Does that mean that you advocate some kind of new approach to assessing the activity of the Bolsheviks in Russia?

[Rybkin] I feel profoundly Russian by my origin and by my roots. At the same time I feel I am an inhabitant of Russia who grew up in a multinational environment. Therefore nothing in Russia's history is alien to me. Everything that happened belongs to me.

I am a pragmatist. Therefore I am convinced that from all our hard-earned experience we should adopt what is most necessary and important. Our pride in our compatriots' greatness of spirit and mind should not be based on short-term considerations whereby one person is trampled underfoot in order to elevate another. All historical figures have been focal points for great good and great evil. The bigger the figure, the more significant the manifestation of both of these.

Everything that was done by Peter I, by Alexander I or Alexander the Liberator—all this passed through my family's history in one way or another. After the 1861 reform and the abolition of serfdom my forebears, who had fought, received parcels of land. They received this gift as a great benefit and clung to that land. The time of great upheavals came: the Japanese and First World Wars, the revolution. It was a peasant country. Something had to be done. But not the way they did it! And by 1920 this had become clear. My forefathers were freedom-lovers and refused to be brought to their knees, as many other citizens of Russia are refusing now. Because you can injure a person, and eventually he will understand and forgive. But you cannot humiliate him—he will never forgive that. Every ruler who has real power must understand that.

So then the NEP came along—the wise new economic policy. The peasant finds himself in his accustomed market, he has room to maneuver. The peasants always lived in market conditions, albeit restricted or specific. Without the market of those days, I and my two brothers and two sisters would never have received higher education. The ruble, which was in the same state of upheaval as now, became gold.

All these are elementary facts. I am repeating them in order to emphasize a simple thought: that if you are the leader, that is to say you are in the lead, in front of the others, it is incumbent on you to look ahead a pace or two, and not lead the others while walking backwards yourself.

[Kucher] Could you name the strong and weak aspects of our government?

[Rybkin] You mean, starting in 1991?

[Kucher] For the sake of argument.

[Rybkin] My sympathies are with the government headed by Yegor Timurovich Gaydar for their efforts, vigor, and desire to reform the economy. But I am frankly convinced that a thoroughly monopoly-based economy cannot be taken by a cavalry attack without injuries and errors. If we are thinking in terms of a system, we must understand that the reforms should involve dismantling, not destruction. An explosion is always a revolution. Bang—then dust. But by dismantling a component and putting a new one in its place, we can change the system as a whole. The peasant who has rotting beams in his house knows how to do this without destroying the whole structure.

Some of the people from that government still remain, and they are working with Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin. For the most part they are well-trained people with a good knowledge of theory. They have gained substantial experience over these years. Unfortunately, this has affected Russia painfully. It is distressing to see this. I do not want to engage in "if only's." Indeed, when they took on the job, there were not many volunteers. Now they are living through a difficult time.

But the government operates as it deems necessary. It is inclined to heed parliament's opinion. Relations between us are equal, although we are rather critical about some of the government's steps. But we do not bear a grudge. In the committees there is the opportunity to discuss things with the vice premiers. In parliament's "Government Hour" (on Fridays) it is no problem for the ministers to justify or adjust their own viewpoint.

There was admittedly a time when some of the young deputies raised the question of no confidence in the government. Not more than 16 percent of those present voted to put this question on the agenda.

[Kucher] A situation very often arises in the government when it is necessary to act quickly, but an appropriate law does not yet exist. What is your attitude to the idea that the federal executive power could make broader use, in economic practice, of its own decrees and other normative acts?

[Rybkin] The formula that forms the basis of the government's activity permits it to draw up practical, well-thought-out documents and adopt laws in a transparent form, with all interested parties playing an active part in this process. The federal budget was submitted to parliament 23 March, and was adopted on 25 March.

We must not drift into an "emergency" attitude, although where it is necessary, in the interests of the cause, to regulate something by means of a government decree, this must be done, and likewise where a presidential edict is needed. But we must create a sound legislative basis, among other things as regards formulating the budget. There are those who assert that the Duma will not be able to adopt more than 30 laws in the remaining time, but that statement is unfounded.

[Kucher] What does the concept of "an independent political figure" mean for you personally?

[Rybkin] Everything relating to my duties "What you call independence is prescribed in the Russian Federation Constitution. It clearly states what I can and what I am not entitled to do. Some people believe that these aren't sufficient rights for the State Duma. I don't think so. The entire lawmaking process passes through the State Duma—this imposes a tremendous obligation and a tremendous responsibility. Coordinating this work, organizing internal procedures—all this complex process falls on my shoulders. But I believe that I am truly independent if I can heed the opinion of deputies and rely on it. The State Duma Standing Orders and other documents empower me to represent the Duma's interests in all organizations and power structures inside and outside the country. This represents a pretty broad range of questions and powers. But I repeat yet again that I constantly measure my actions against the sentiments of State Duma deputies and the State Duma Council and try never to take any step without them. Furthermore, there are always deputies around me and I have the chance to consult with them. When I was young and less experienced and was chairing faculty meetings I would listen to people and think: I was about to make such-and-such a decision but, having listened to them, I have fundamentally altered it. Thank God I listened, and thank God I altered that decision. It is important not only to listen but also to hear what people are saying—this is also a sign of independence.

[Kucher] You are sometimes accused of having betrayed your ideals, some people regard you as a defector...

[Rybkin] On the subject of political retreats and defections. It seems to me that people who talk like that are maybe the ones who have lost contact with the world, whereas I move in the same direction as the world.... I live a real life, while they have their heads in the clouds.

[Kucher] Historians and analysts are attempting to predict Russia's future, arguing among themselves. What do you think about its future?

[Rybkin] There is a great deal that is artificial and divorced from real life in the arguments about whether Russia will become great power or not. I simply say that Russia has never ceased to be a great power. And never will.

[Kucher] What is your view of how Russia will build its relations with the republics which have made the break and gone their own way, as they say?

[Rybkin] I simply say that Russia is self-sufficient enough to weather any crisis. And we are weathering it.

Those who have made a wrong move will probably soon realize. We learn by comparing. We all have to seek our own solution. But I am convinced that many will try to get closer to Russia. How this will be formalized—by a Treaty of Georgiyevsk or of some other kind—I don't know. But I do believe, for example, that the Russian-Belorussian [Belarusian] treaty and the things it offers is the correct path, particularly for fraternal peoples.

I see a mixed economy for Russia. It is hard to say what the balance between private and state ownership will be. State ownership accounts for 22 percent in the United States, for example, 33 percent in Germany, 40 percent in Austria, and 10 percent in Japan. The current figure in our country is 70 percent. But even that figure is wrong. State enterprises are no longer what they used to be. We have not thought through the flotation process. And the people who work there have not gone into this in depth. Grabbing a controlling block of shares for itself, an enterprise follows the old tradition of begging the government for additional subsidies. We have instituted many different "levels," whereas the fact is that everything that's nonstate is private.

A mixed economy is a strength. Admittedly many of our industrialists have forgotten that the word industry is related to the concept of being industrious and doing something, not just sitting back and waiting for some kind of economic pluralism to appear.

As for the political aspect, a multiparty system is developing in the country. But this does not mean things will be as they are now, when it is very easy to register a party with neither a program nor social support. By tradition Russia will evidently have a center party, a left-wing party, and—on the right—a liberal democratic party. But I don't think that the right-wing party will be identical to the one that is currently active.

[Kucher] It would be interesting to hear your assessment of the State Duma's first four months of work....

[Rybkin] I would like to talk not some much about lawmaking as about the fact that we have managed in a short space of time to find mutual understanding and cooperation between the president and the State Duma, the State Duma and the government, the State Duma and the Federation Council, the State Duma and the judiciary. This is a very, very important factor.

It can be said that a hundred days is not a very long period to draw such a conclusion. We live in times when one day counts as two or even three. Because the State Duma has been granted only 24 months of activity. Four months have already gone. And we are very aware of this.

A detailed plan of law-drafting activity has been adopted. It identifies priority legislative acts which are extremely necessary to back up economic reform in Russia. I would say, however, that we are not talking so much of even backup for immediate needs as of the longer term. And this is very important. In addition, the plan for law-drafting activity incorporates the wishes of all those with legislative initiative rights.

What parts of this plan are already being implemented? First and foremost laws forming the legal framework of the new state: civil and land codes and water and air laws, which establish and consolidate the new ownership relationships in Russia. New criminal, criminal-procedure, and administrative-law codes are currently being elaborated.

I regard it as a big plus for the State Duma that when we were shaping the administrative structures (the chairman of the State Duma and his four deputies, committees, and commissions) we followed not the path of enshrining the advantages which the party majority achieved during the elections but the path of proportional representation for all the factions and deputies' groups. Which was a considerable surprise to Russia and the rest of the world. This meant the main objective was achieved—what emerged was not a list-driven majority based on the number of supporters of a given faction or group, but a real, sensible majority. Without which fruitful activity by the State Duma would be inconceivable.

It is virtually impossible to get all deputies without exception to agree in the course of Duma plenary sessions. We had to consider the experience of the United States, France, Germany, Austria, and a number of other countries where work on a draft law starts in committee and is conducted on a multiparty basis there.

Thus our chamber of the Federal Assembly—to the surprise of many opponents—very quickly structured itself, determined its forms and methods of work, and started operating—getting down, that is, to its main job of lawmaking.

In my view the existence of a strong "common sense" bloc in the Duma was evidenced by the amnesty decree. I am deeply convinced that without the decision adopted by the Duma it would be impossible, first, to get Russia out of crisis; second, to avoid suspicion, hoping for the worst, and the possibility of settling scores; third, to amnesty—literally forgive—not only the "Lefortovo inmates" but every last one of the political participants, on both sides, in the 21 September-4 October events, thereby halting the wave of hatred and vengefulness; and fourth, to give thousands of Russians with their newfound freedom the chance to join in constructive work for the benefit of the fatherland.

The "common-sense bloc" made its weighty voice heard when working on the agreement on achieving social accord in Russia.

In my view, that document is an important step strengthening Russian statehood. It is an original Russian version of the Moncloa Pact, which saved Spain from a rerun of the Civil War after Franco died. [interview ends]

The old Supreme Soviet's departure from the political scene also brought in its wake the disappearance of one its invariable attributes—the "video" record documenting deputies at work. We can no longer see how Ivan Rybkin chairs sessions or what he talks to deputies about and how. In fact he rarely appears on television. Instead we are starting to get more frequent assessments of his activity in the newspapers, and the dissatisfied voice of the opposition is growing stronger. But why? It has become demonstrably clear to me, for example, that you can only call Ivan Rybkin a communist or a liberal by stretching the truth an awful long way. He is neither. Because he is a legislator in the post of chairman of the State Duma. His predecessors, Lukyanov and Khasbulatov, were nothing but Supreme Soviet manipulators. Men with different styles and from different schools, but still typical party tyrants.

Rybkin is a professional administrator, a statesman. No way has he sold out to Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin, as some of his dogmatic colleagues believe; it is just that, on becoming Duma chairman, he acquired a new status obliging him to leave his political views outside the Federal Assembly door. It cannot be ruled out that he has learned lessons from the recent past. But he was most likely pushed in this direction by his own experience as an engineer, political scientist, and diplomat.

Deputies are difficult customers. They have their own views of life, but they have a good sense of what a statesman is.

What awaits Ivan Rybkin in the future?

In answering this question I am not even attempting a prediction, merely citing facts. He is an outsider among his own people but not at home among those on the other side. His own people evidently cannot forgive him his "treachery": Baburin has already suggested that Rybkin be moved from the speaker's chair to a deputy's seat. They are hardly likely to back off, and a threat to Rybkin from that quarter is always a possibility.

The other side, the democrats, who initially had a sharply negative attitude to Ivan Petrovich, are gradually coming to recognize his worth and will evidently forge closer contacts with him unless they frighten themselves and, by proxy, their colleagues, and start squabbling among themselves again.

I wish to reiterate that Ivan Petrovich Rybkin is doomed to be in the center. He is able and, it seems to be, ready to reshape an assembly with Supreme Soviet morals into a real Russian parliament.

Possibly he will persist for a long time yet in linking the idea of creating a center to the spirit of the Agrarian Party. Unless life thrusts a new kind of middle-class person into the arena.

But let's not try to guess.

Time will tell.

Regional Affairs

Moscow To Assist Ufa, Vladikavkaz With Treaty, Constitution

MK1205110094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 12 May 94 p 3

[Unattributed reports under the "Provincial Chronicle" rubric]

[Text] Ufa—A republican government delegation led by Prime Minister Anatoliy Kopsov has left for Moscow to agree on 12 draft agreements to form the basis for a treaty between the Russian Federation and Bashkiria [Bashkortostan]. The treaty is to be signed 20 May.

Vladikavkaz—North Ossetia President Akhsarbek Galazov and Supreme Soviet Chairman Yuriy Biragov have turned to the Russian Federation's Federation Council with a request for assistance to prepare the republic's draft constitution whose provisions should fully conform with those of the Russian Federation Constitution.

Emergency Minister Holds Exercises in Nalchik

MK1205111094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 12 May 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "Provincial Chronicle" rubric]

[Text] Nalchik—Command and staff exercises of the Russian Federation Ministry of Emergency Situations are in progress on the territory of Kabardino-Balkaria (under the guidance of Minister Sergey Shoygu) to practice interaction in case natural and man-made disasters should arise.

Kuban Crime Crackdown Produces Results

PM1205141994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 May 94 First Edition p 8

[Unattributed report: "Militia's 'Catch'"]

[Text] As ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA has already reported, kray administration head Nikolay Yegorov's decree "On Emergency Measures To Combat Crime," has come into force in the Kuban. In accordance with this decree mass surveillance and preventive and investigations measures were carried out in the course of four days; around 10,000 militia officers took part in these measures. The "catch" was fairly considerable and diverse. During the operation 344 crimes were detected, including 22 cases of premeditated murder, 16 cases of deliberate aggravated assault, 25 robberies and muggings, 140 cases of embezzlement of state and private property, and 12 thefts of firearms and munitions. Fifty illegally held weapons were seized and 14 stolen cars were restored to their lawful owners; money and valuables to the tune of 15 million rubles were seized from criminals. Eighty five criminals hiding from investigation and justice were found. The kray's hotels, stations, and markets were checked in a search for "casual workers."

Chuvashia To Become Tax Free Zone for 3 Years

LD1205163294 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1100 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Chuvashia is to become a taxfree zone for three years. In accordance with an edict issued by republican President Fedorov, all enterprises and organizations which produce consumer goods and technical equipment will be exempt from income tax. Banks and insurance companies will also pay lower taxes.

Four Killed in Bomb Explosion in Groznyy

LD1205174994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] An explosion shook a residential area in Chechnya's capital, Groznyy, on Tuesday [10 May]. It killed four people and injured 10 more. Interfax's correspondents report that an armed unit of the Chechen opposition, Ruslan Lobozanov's group, is based there.

A prominent official from Chechnya's Interior Ministry told Interfax that the mine was set by another criminal group for the purpose of revenge. It was placed between the 3rd and the 4th storeys of a building. The blast claimed the lives of two Lobozanov militants and killed two local residents.

It is believed that this is a continuation of the events that took place earlier this year, when nine people died in an armed clash between Lobozanov's men and another grouping. Lobozanov's gang lost two men in that fire exchange.

After Tuesday's blast Lobozanov's men went in the direction of their enemy's headquarters. According to the Interior Ministry, it is doing its best now to stop the armed conflict from getting out of control.

Key Magadan Industries Agree To Freeze Prices

OW1305083494 Moscow Russian Television and Dubl Networks in Russian 0604 GMT 11 May 94

[Announcer-read report; from the "Dalniy Vostok" program]

[Text] Magadan Oblast gold, coal, power, and transport industry leaders made an effort to reach agreement among themselves. They have signed an economic agreement freezing prices on the goods and services that each produces. It is presumed that this measure will enable them to hold down the growth of expenditures on Magadan Oblast's basic end product—gold.

Kolyma gold may have become the most expensive in the world, and that means, not competitive. The governor of Magadan Oblast is convinced that other Far East territories, whose products cannot find a market either in Russia or abroad due to pricing distortions, should take similar steps. It is difficult to forecast the effectiveness of the Magadan agreement, because it is doubtful that order can be restored in one isolated oblast at a time of general economic anarchy and helplessness.

Chelyabinsk: 13 Seek Election to Federation Council

PM1305083194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 May 94 p 1

[Sergey Smirnov report: "Ubozhko Wants to Ride Into The Kremlin on a Tractor"]

[Text] Chelyabinsk—There are 13 contenders for the last two Russian Federation Council seats in Chelyabinsk.

Last December there was a whole host of politicians trying to fight their way into the Duma. It was packed here—the candidates had to push and shove—but when it came to the Federation Council the elections were null and void—no one wanted to run!

Now, however, there are 13 contenders for the last two seats in Russia. An ominous number. But the "temporarily nonworking" ex-general V. Varennikov probably is not superstitious about such things. He has visited Chelyabinsk twice. He addressed the public who, as the local newspapers reported, greeted his speeches with applause and shouts of approval.

All sorts of people are being attracted to Chelyabinsk Oblast. General Makashov was here on the eve of the presidential elections. Zhirinovskiy perorated from atop a tractor at the Chelyabinsk Tractor Plant. Federation Council contender Lev Ubozhko, chairman of the Conservative Party of Russia, did not give a fig for this Zhirinovskiy: "When I speak, there will be nothing that that...can do!" As a politician he rates himself above Zhirinovskiy and as for Yeltsin—even more so. Lev the Terrible!

The oblast administration, it seems to me, is watching these elections with a certain unease. All last year Vadim Solovyev, the head of the administration fought the oblast Soviet (or rather the Soviet fought him). After the putsch the deputies were turfed out and a lull ensued. But the apparatus settled down into the comfortable, well paid jobs. Where the means exist the ends are not hard to achieve. The opposition has been biding its time in the shadows but has been very actively promoting its candidates into a place in the sun. Who knows how the Federation Council deputies will behave toward the administration? The Duma deputies, for example, have already brought up the big guns—a commission from the Russian president's apparatus has already come for a heart to heart talk with Solovyev.

The only calm people here are surely the voters. Calm with regard to the elections, of course. And keeping your cool when whole districts are without water and the city is up to its ears in garbage is no easy matter. Hardly anything is going to change after the elections either.

Sakhalin, Japanese Companies To Fund Investment Projects

PM1205155394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 May 94 p 1

[ADS report under the "Events of the Week" rubric: "'Sakhalin-Japan' Entrepreneurs' Association Established"—from the FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA section]

[Text] On the Russian side, the association's founders include the International Center for Business Cooperation, "Sakhalinmorneftegaz," the Sakhalin Shipping Line, "Sakhalinugol," and more than 30 other enterprises from Sakhalin; on the Japanese side the founders include a number of major companies such as Mitsui and the Bank of Tokyo. In accordance with its charter, the association intends to "formulate a set of investment projects and seeks to secure their implementation not for the sake of profit, but with a view to achieving all-around, mutually advantageous economic cooperation." The projects will be subsidized from the association's assets, which have been formed by contributions from its members. Mikhail Ryabtsev, director of the International Center for Business Cooperation (Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk), has been elected president.

Kurils To Get R85 Billion in Federal Aid

PM1305105594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 May 94 p II

[ADS report under the "Regional News" rubric: "Government Is Allocating 85 Billion Rubles to South Kurils"—from the FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA section]

[Text] Sakhalin Oblast Administration has received notification from the Economy Ministry regarding the allocation of 85 billion rubles [R] in 1994 to the federal program titled "The Social and Economic Development of the Kuril Islands for 1994, 1995, and Through 2000." Sakhalin Oblast Vice Governor Viktor Serenko announced that R26.6 billion of this sum would be channeled into modernizing or constructing airports and seaports on Iturup and Kunashir, and also developing the power industry and air transportation and communications. In addition, R24.89 billion will be allocated in the form of investment loans to enterprises that take part in implementing these projects. The remaining R34.45 billion are earmarked for current expenditure (transportation costs and freight and food deliveries).

RUSSIA: Vladivostok Vice-Governor on Energy Crisis

944F0685A Vladivostok VLADIVOSTOK in Russian 10 May 94 p 3

[Article by Alla Prozorova, kray administration press service: "Are the New Power Rates That Terrible?"]

[Text] *Contrary to the opinion that has set in—not without help from the mass media—the Maritime Kray economy is currently being strangled by factors other than electric power rates. This thesis was advanced yesterday by kray Vice Governor Sergey Demin in response to rumors circulating in the kray regarding the expected increase in electric power and heat rates.*

As proof he showed the percentage of January-March expenditures on electric power in the totality of components comprising the production cost at major kray enterprises. The Bor Association—7.7- 8.5 percent. The Khrustalninsk Tin Production Joint-Stock Company—5.9-9.5 percent. The Slavyanskiy Ship-Repair Plant—3.6-9.6 percent. The Ussuri Locomotive Repair Plant—1.72-1.38 percent. The figures show eloquently, said the vice governor, that what is ruining the economy is the other "flank." That is, first, high taxes—most of them federal, as the president of the Russian Federation said in his message to the Federal Assembly "On Strengthening the Russian State." Second, the wages paid by an enterprise that respects its workers. Since the mandatory minimum wage of 14,632 rubles [R] cannot be qualified as respect for labor (and this is the figure built into the labor remuneration fund), the enterprises are compelled to take the necessary extra remuneration out of the profit part, which is subject to additional tax on profit. And third, rail transportation rates that are too high.

In the latter case, a closed-loop circle of financial problems analogous to that in other sectors is at work. Therefore, the most likely solution lies in reducing the tax burden imposed by the government on producer enterprises, and correspondingly, increasing output.

"So far, I have not seen," said Sergey Demin, "any government documents on the subject of repealing a certain decree, No. 1001. There is a document on procedures for forming rates, which gives the regions the right to set them. The kray administration will do its best the keep down as much as possible electric power rate increases. But objectively, as in the rest of the world, this is very difficult to achieve, since prices for components—fuel, materials, and transportation—change."

Elaborating on the trends, Sergey Demin recalled that in keeping with Decree No. 1001, subsidies for Maritime Kray to deal with the energy problems were set at R17 billion in 1993. Over the winter the kray managed to add to this amount another R111 billion (a total of R128 billion). This money permitted us to "survive" until spring. Because Maritime Kray enterprises owe the energy sector more than R200 billion for electric power and more than R100 billion for heat. So, despite the share of electric power costs not exceeding 6-12 percent of production costs, enterprises do not pay energy suppliers for months. This situation will lead to a catastrophe within the next five-six months: The kray will not be ready to ensure the supply of heat for itself by the 1994-95 winter season.

International Affairs

New Parliament Addresses Russian State Duma

LD1205165994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1625 GMT 12 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev 12 May TASS— "We all are overwhelmed with the warmest feelings towards the Russian people and its legislators," the Ukrainian newly-elected parliament said in today's address to the Russian State Duma.

In their address, issued at the parliament's first session, Ukrainian lawmakers said they strongly believed in mutual understanding and ability of both parliaments to settle differences between newly-independent states by means of reasonable political bargaining and compromises not infringing upon the vital interests of the Russian and Ukrainian peoples.

It is noteworthy that Ukrainian lawmakers unanimously agreed with the wording of the telegram, but radical nationalists demanded that the telegram be written in the Ukrainian language, which is still unlikely to change the content of the address.

Tu-22 Pilots Grounded Due To Defense Ministry 'Suspicions'

LD1205212594 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] [Announcer Presenter Osokin] In Ukraine, pilots of Black Sea Fleet missile-carrying Tu-22 aircraft are complaining they are not being allowed to fly. They say the explanation is the persistent suspicion of the local authorities. The Ukrainian Ministry of Defense says the pilots are preparing to fly the aircraft away to Russia. With the directness characteristic of the military, the aircrew call these statements complete and utter lies.

Delegation Visiting U.S. Discusses Cooperation With NASA

WS1305083194 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Valeriy Shmarov, head of a Ukrainian delegation that is currently on a visit to Washington, and Volodymyr Horbulin, head of the Ukrainian Space Agency, met today with NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin. They discussed prospects for Ukrainian-U.S. cooperation in the sphere of peaceful space exploration. In particular, specific directions and priorities for bilateral cooperation in space exploration were discussed. They include Ukraine's participation in the Mir-Freedom project, cooperation in space communications and monitoring, as well as application of fundamental research by Ukrainian scientists in such fields as microgravitation, telemedicine, welding in space, and others.

Visits National Security Council, State Department

WS1305105294 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] A Ukrainian delegation consisting of Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Shmarov, Foreign Deputy Minister Borys Tarasyuk, and Volodymyr Horbulin, director of Ukraine's National Space Agency, has begun a working visit in Washington. The delegation members visited the U.S. National Security Council where they held consultations with Senior Director Nicholas Burns and Anthony Lake, national security adviser to the U.S. President. Major emphasis was put on issues related to the implementation of conversion projects for the Ukrainian defense industry and continued Ukrainian-U.S. cooperation in the sphere of nuclear equipment and technology. The delegation also held consultations at the U.S. State Department, where it discussed the implementation of trilateral agreements between Ukraine, Russia, and the United States, as well as other Ukrainian-U.S. agreements. Steps were outlined to hasten this process.

Joint Black Sea Fleet Exercises To Be Held in Jul

LD1205174294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] The naval exercises Breeze-94 in the Black Sea due between 25 and 29 July were in the center of attention of the Wednesday meeting in Odessa between the chief of staff of the Bulgarian Navy Admiral Ilia Popov and the Deputy Commander of the Ukrainian Navy Rear-Admiral Nikolay Kostrov. According to INTERFAX-Ukraine, the details of interaction of the two navies were discussed. The exercises are going to involve two Ukrainian, one Russian and one Turkish ships, two missile cruisers from Greece and Rumania each as well as two ships of the U.S. sixth fleet. Two Bulgarian naval ships, a frigate and a demagnetizing vessel, are now visiting Odessa. On Saturday they are going to leave for Novorossiisk.

National Affairs

Six Candidates to Run in Presidential Election

LD1205110194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1930 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Kiev—Ivan Kyshko, member of the Central Electoral Commission for the election of the president of Ukraine, informed a UNIAN correspondent on 11 May, (the last day for submitting lists of signatures in support of contenders for the presidential election) that documents from district electoral commissions on the results of collecting signatures have been received by the Central Electoral Commission. According to the documents, Ivan Plyushch, Leonid Kravchuk, Leonid Kuchma,

Oleksandr Moroz, Volodymyr Lanovyy, and Petro Talanchuk have gathered the required number of signatures (100,000). According to Ihor Kyshka, Valeriy Babych, Ivan Valenya, and Mykola Rud, who were unable to gather the required number of signatures within the established time limit, have withdrawn from the election campaign.

With regard to the candidacies of Volodymyr Lanovyy and Petro Talanchuk, the Central Electoral Commission is clarifying information concerning the demands of the law on collecting 1,500 signatures in 18 oblasts.

As a UNIAN correspondent learned from informed sources, the final number of signatures gathered is as follows: Leonid Kravchuk—270,000; Leonid Kuchma—210,000; Ivan Plyushch—130,000; Petro Talanchuk—120,000; Oleksandr Moroz—120,000; Volodymyr Lanovyy—100,000.

Donetsk Leftist Forces Prepare for Presidential, Local Vote

WS1205145394 Kiev UKRAYINA MOLODA in Ukrainian 11 May 94 p 2

[Report by Pavlo Kushch: "For Full Happiness—President Charodeyev?"]

[Text] During last June's political strike, Donetsk miners, having learned that the current generation will hardly survive on the promised five dollars [per month], were demanding early presidential elections. As of late April, the desire to hold early presidential elections remained unchanged—the Abakumov Donetsk mine nominated Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch as a candidate for the office of Ukrainian president.

As for representatives of local parties and movements, they still hesitate to nominate their own candidates, except for left-wing forces. The Liberal Party of Ukraine [LPU] is not doing this, because its leader, Ihor Markulov, has not yet reached the age required by legislation to run for president. A candidate whose position is closest to that of the party can count on support from LPU. It has not been ruled out that Leonid Kuchma will become such a candidate. According to the well-known rule that from all miseries people elect the least painful, the former prime minister was most often named at an expanded coordinative conference of the Civil Congress of Ukraine [HKU]. Nevertheless, the HKU has not yet decided which presidential candidate to support, despite the fact that it was considering the nomination of former People's Deputy Oleksandr Charodeyev as the party's candidate.

Meanwhile, political parties are paying much attention to the local elections. The lead, as always, is held by the communists. For instance, at its oblast conference, the LPU nominated current Oblast Council Chairman V. Chuprun (former chief of the LPU Donetsk Oblast Committee), as a candidate for the office of oblast council chairman. Rayon committees of the Communist Party are not wasting time either. As candidates for rayon council chairmen, they are primarily nominating people with impressive party experience.

Chornovil Announces Changes in Parliamentary Regulations

LD1205182694 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 12 May 94

[Announcement by Vyacheslav Chornovil, member of the presidium of the Ukrainian Supreme Council, chairing a session of the Supreme Council in Kiev—live]

[Text] In connection with examining the credentials commission's submission [concerning the powers of seven parliamentary deputies] a certain change has taken place in respect of the validity of decisions being made by us. As a result, the Supreme Council is legally qualified to pass a decision, if 224 deputies are present at the session, rather than 226 as was the case previously. Then ...[pauses] but more than half its constitutional list, which is 226. [sentence as heard]

A decision is now passed by a majority of 169 out of the number of people's deputies whose powers are recognized. It was 170 earlier. As for amendments to the Constitution, there remains the same norm as before, which is 300.

Decisions on the inclusion of issues on the agenda are passed by a majority of one third of the number of people's deputies, which now is 112. So these norms have been slightly reduced.

Kravchuk Urges Rescheduling of Presidential Elections

LD1205173494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 12 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Presidential elections on 26 June may deprive the president, government and parliament of the political clout on the regions, President Leonid Kravchuk told the new parliament late on Wednesday [11 May]. As an urgent priority, he offered the deputies to consider rescheduling presidential and local elections until a later date.

Kravchuk insists that presidential elections must follow the creation of a proper legislative basis for government functioning and the adoption of a new constitution.

In his view, parliamentary approval is needed of laws on the presidency and local government before the elections can be held. These must provide for an executive presidency and sweeping powers to regional council heads, Kravchuk believes.

He also spoke of a risk that the presidential and local election campaign might lead to polarization and a bitter power struggle instead of defusing social tension at a time when "we are in need of consensus and tolerance".

Kravchuk believes that the danger of power erosion is increased because of the specifics of the economic situation in Ukraine whose predominantly state sector is in need of central government.

In his view, further experiments in government reform may wreck the levers of economic management while political instability push back the international financial agencies willing to provide economic aid to Ukraine.

"The dispute between Ukraine and Crimea are known to all and sundry. There is a risk that it may spread to other regions," Kravchuk said.

IF Note: Some Crimean leaders consider Kravchuk's drive for rescheduling the presidential election as a desire to try to cling to his office as long as possible. Crimean Vice Premier Yevgeniy Saburov said that "Kravchuk ought to have set an example of civilized behavior by stepping down in a dignified manner." In an interview with INTERFAX, he said that "a democratic changeover of government is when the politician is seen off with honors but not when he is driven out of power or tries to hold back to his office with tooth and nail." Stepping down in time is the main thing in a democratic society, Saburov believes.

Meanwhile, the rescheduling question is not even on the parliament's preliminary agenda.

The Ukrainian Central Electoral Commission reports that the following have received the 100,000 signatures required for registering as presidential candidates: President Leonid Kravchuk, Chairman of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Leonid Kuchma, ex-speaker Ivan Plyushch, leader of the Ukrainian socialists Aleksandr Moroz and Education Minister Petr Talanchuk.

Political Leaders Comment on Postponement of Elections

LD1205210894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1934 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] A considerable part of deputies of the Ukrainian parliament do not share the opinion of President Leonid Kravchuk concerning the postponement of presidential elections scheduled originally for 26 June. This was said in an interview with INTERFAX-Ukraine by member of the temporary presidium of parliament Vasiliy Durdynets who was commenting on Kravchuk's proposal.

Durdynets noted that in the issue of elections "there are a number of questions which should be seriously discussed" in permanent parliamentary commissions and then the issue should be put to the vote. "I hope that the deputies will show enough responsibility and common sense," he said.

Leader of the Ukrainian Conservative-Ukrainian Party Stepan Khmara believes that the deputies will not back the president's proposal to put off the elections. In his opinion, the president's appeal makes him "seem simply weak and helpless," "his unconvincing arguments are simply ridiculous."

"We consider it necessary to postpone the elections until the end of the year, because the presidential campaign today could disturb peace in the country," chairman of the All-Ukrainian Society Prosvita Pavlo Movchan stated. However, that does not mean that Prosvita supports Kravchuk's candidacy, he added. "He has made enough mistakes and senseless actions."

One of the leaders of the Ukrainian Communist Party Boris Oleynik said that there is a certain sense in arguments in favor of the postponement. In his opinion, that may violate the balance in society.

At the same time, Oleynik said, the faction of Communists believes that "there should be no violations of the law—the elections should take place."

"In the president's proposal we don't see the main thing we are looking for—an explanation of what he is going to do before the elections if they are postponed," leader of the major faction of the old parliament Novaya Rada Ivan Zayets told INTERFAX-Ukraine. In his opinion, the elections will not be postponed.

Rukh Deputy Urges 'Patriots' To Oppose Kuchma for President

WS1305085494 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 11 May 94 p 3

[Report by Yuliya Pshenko: "Yaroslav Kendzyor Calls on Ukrainian Patriots To Send All Forces Against Kuchma"]

[Text] Ukrainian People's Deputy Yaroslav Kendzyor, at a news conference held at the Lvov Mayoralty, divided deputies of the new parliament into four tentative blocs. Thus, according to Yaroslav Kendzyor, the first bloc—purely communist—comprises 138 deputies. The second one, "left center," which was named by him, is composed of deputies from the so-called "party of power," as well as deputies from the Party of Democratic Revival of Ukraine and the Labor Party, and it comprises 72 legislators. The right center comprises 53 deputies from Rukh and the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists. Only five people's deputies comprise the right wing. These are representative of the Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party and the Ukrainian National Self-Defense.

Yaroslav Kendzyor believes that if the left and right wings of the center unite, they will have the same number of deputies as the communist bloc. Therefore, a battle for so-called independent deputies will be waged in parliament.

Commenting on the presidential elections, Yaroslav Kendzyor said that "the candidacy of Leonid Kuchma is the most dangerous." Moreover, Yaroslav Kendzyor confidently told journalists that "there have been reports that Kuchma will be supported in the elections by certain political and business circles in the United States." He also called on all Ukrainian patriots to vote for a candidate who will be able to strip Kuchma of as many votes as possible.

Crimean Communist Leader on Government's 'Inefficiency'

WS1305070894 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 7 May 94 p 2

[Report by Tatyana Korobova: "Crimean Communist Leader Announces His Opposition to Meshkov"]

[Text] The news conference, which was unexpectedly called by Crimean Communist leader Leonid Grach, generated a sort of furor because—for the first time since the presidential elections, during a time of euphoria, which was cooling down but still alive—a force declared its open opposition to the new authorities. Currently, the Communist Party of Crimea [KPK] has some 48,000 members. Leonid Grach received more than 13 percent of the vote and ranked third in the presidential elections. In the Supreme Soviet elections, communists were supported by fewer voters—they won only two out of 14 seats—because voters, in general, voted for "Russia's Bloc." The development of events in the Crimea finally upset the KPK, and Grach voiced concern over this very fact after the news conference.

We have learned about Meshkov's plans to reform the executive bodies—to liquidate executive commissions within the local soviets and nominate interim heads of administrations. Grach believes that this "destruction of some old bodies will at least bring about some order in the state."

Communists voice doubts over the moves of the new government (half of this government consists of Moscow residents). In the opinion of Leonid Grach, "they are failures in science and, to a greater extent, failures in practice."

The management is experiencing a vertical split, the government is going to manage the state through duty-shifts [vakhtovyy metod]. The KPK cannot, in Grach's opinion, remain aloof when "the Crimea is undergoing humiliating experiments." Moreover, management "has not only been left without a local staff, but the basis for an open 'witch-hunt' has been prepared." The depth and tragedy of this precipice, into which Crimea is headed, are both deepening, according to Grach, due to the government's inefficiency, the president's lack of competence, and a generally low level of education (in the sphere of legal knowledge within the state). Those, who learned the classic adage—divide and conquer—take advantage of this situation. "I state with full responsibility that if a shot is fired in the Crimea, it will not be the result of political or interethnic tensions. Residents of the Crimea should understand: They will be armed to fight for ownership," said Grach. Having rebuked Yevgeniy Saburov for the "anticommunist yearning after the Moscow model," Grach voiced surprise over the government's immense expenditures on their own needs, and said that their holiday hotel "More"—their headquarters in Alushta—was built as an imitation of the Zavidovo Hotel in Moscow.

Leonid Grach is convinced that, despite the utmost discord between Kravchuk and Meshkov and lack of direct contacts between Yeltsin and Meshkov, they are objectively assisting one another. Kravchuk believes that the worse the situation in the Crimea is, the better for him, while Russia simply behaves like an owner in the Crimea. As to the question of why Russia behaves like an owner in the Crimea, Grach answers without thinking: "Shokhin's Russia."

The KPK leader also confirmed that communists, who during the elections had supported Meshkov with some reservations, currently represent an opposition because "they cannot sacrifice anything—except rallies, tents, and rejected resolutions—to the fatherland."

Reiterating that the Crimea will not overcome the economic crisis alone and the union of fraternal republics should be restored on a new basis, Leonid Grach said that the KPK considers Leonid Kuchma the most proper candidate for Ukrainian president.

Crimea Activists Picket Parliament; Want Autonomy Rescinded

WS1305100394 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Representatives of Crimean political and public organizations continue to picket the Ukrainian Supreme Council building in Kiev. Here is our correspondent, Igor Kulinichenko, reporting from the site.

[Begin recording] [Kulinichenko] The picket near the Supreme Council building is in progress. It is being conducted by representatives of political organizations who came here from the Crimea. I see slogans that read: Get Russian military bases out of our Crimea! Cancel Crimean autonomy—Threat to Ukrainian statehood! Stop Mafia from seizing power in the Crimea! We protest against sale of Sevastopol, a Ukrainian naval base! Only Ukrainian laws and Constitution should govern the Crimea! Protect Crimean Ukrainians against self-will of Meshkov and his clique!—and many other slogans. People are really demanding these things. I am going to go over to one of the protesters and ask him to introduce himself.

[Vlasenko] My name is Pavlo Vlasenko. I am deputy chairman of the All-Ukrainian Prosvita [Education] Society.

[Kulinichenko] First of all, what do you think we should do to make all people in the Crimea, including Crimean Ukrainians, happy about the policies pursued by the Crimean parliament and the government of Yuriy Meshkov?

[Vlasenko] It is impossible to make everyone happy. We should do what is warranted by international laws and Ukrainian interests. That is what we should do. The Ukrainian people, who have more rights to this than those who kick up a row. [sentence as heard] We believe that first and foremost, one should bring all of Crimean legislation in line with Ukrainian laws. Second, we believe that the previous Supreme Council made a mistake when it agreed to autonomy in the first place. It should be revoked. Or, if it is not revoked, one should at least introduce presidential rule in the Crimea. Because, given the present situation, the government invited from Moscow by Meshkov is out to completely rob Ukraine, through the Crimea. The methods of governing which they are proposing, such as the watch method and so on, humiliate us as Ukrainian citizens. Do we not have intelligent people? Of course, we do. Why should Moscow rule us? Foreign troops must be withdrawn. We consider Russian troops to be foreign troops in the Crimea. They should be pulled out immediately. The Black Sea Fleet issue must be resolved. We consider Sevastopol a Ukrainian city. We are not the only ones who think so. The principle of inviolability of borders should be preserved and strengthened, first of all, by a decision of the Ukrainian Supreme Council. [end recording]

Supreme Council Denies Mandate To Two Deputies

LD1205180994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1532 GMT 12 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev 12 May TASS—The Ukrainian parliament voted today to reject mandates to two of the 338 newly-elected deputies, president of the international foundation "Ukraine's Business Diaspora" Vladimir Grinev and president of the concern "Blasko—Black Sea Shipping Lines" Pavel Kudyukin.

The parliament decision can be described as highly controversial and leaving many questions open. Actually, the two deputies sort of fell a victim to the imperfect election law which, in particular, stipulates that elections should be held on an alternative basis. In case in question, Grinev's and Kudyukin's rivals, who polled less votes in the first round of parliamentary elections, withdrew three days before the second round. Nevertheless, the Central Election Committee authorized the second round, which brought both deputies into Ukraine's parliament. But the Credentials Committee qualified the case as an irregularity, and the parliamentary session voted to deny deputy's mandates to the two candidates.

On the face of it, the parliament decision cannot be questioned. However, two more deputies found themselves in a similar situation. These are Ivan Vasyura, head of the collective agricultural enterprise in the Cherkasy region, and Oleg Panasovskiy, director of the Uglegorsk thermal plant. Describing them as "good lads," the session approved their deputy's mandates.

Such a different approach can be accounted for by Grinev's and Kudyukin's "naughtiness."

Grinev is known to be a prominent reformer. Earlier, he stepped down as deputy parliament speaker because he could not agree with the line pursued by the parliament. As a co-chairman of the inter-regional reform bloc, he criticized the government and parliament, accusing them of being incapable of pulling the country out of crisis. Certainly, far from everybody liked this, including many current lawmakers.

Black-sea trouble-maker Pavel Kudyukin is notorious for the much- spoken-about "Blasco" scandal. Lawmakers remember numerous inspections of the activities of the shipping lines management, which was accused of wasting the fleet's assets and embezzling large sums in hard currency. However, the case was not brought to court.

Thus, Ukrainian lawmakers were guided today by personal considerations rather than by law. But what should voters do in this situation?

Radiation Levels Rise After 'Very Serious' Cesium Incident

LD1205162294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] A capsule containing Cesium-137, a highly radioactive substance, was stolen from the incineration workshop of a facility in the Ukrainian city of Nikolayev about two days ago, a correspondent for INTERFAX-Ukraine reports. Police have so far failed to track down either the culprits or the capsule which is believed to have been sawn up.

Spokesman for the Ukrainian security services Anatoliy Sakhno described the incident as very serious indeed.

Three of the plant employees have been sent for medical treatment in Kharkov and Kiev following symptoms of exposure to excessive radiation and about ten others are examined locally.

Unconfirmed reports speak of background radiation levels on the plant's premises rising. It is believed that parts of the capsule may have been thrown in the plant's water reservoir.

Resolution Issued on Nuclear Power Industry Development

LD1205180194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1524 GMT 12 May 94

[Report by UKRINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Kiev 12 May TASS—The Ukrainian Government has issued a resolution on measures aimed to stabilize energy supplies to the national economy.

According to the resolution, new generating units will be put into action at several nuclear power plants at the nearest future and new power transmission lines will be constructed to deliver the electric power.

The Ukrainian State Committee for Use of Nuclear Power and Ministry for Power Engineering and Electrification are instructed to modify existing tariffs for electric energy at an early date.

Relevant organizations are instructed to report on available opportunities and terms for increasing generating capacities of the active nuclear power plants and to map out a programme for developing nuclear power engineering and industry in Ukraine.

Cabinet Passes Resolution on Stabilizing Power Supplies

LD1205173794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] The Ukrainian cabinet has passed a resolution on efforts to stabilize power supplies in the economy. In keeping with the resolution the State Committee for Nuclear Energy should guarantee the commissioning of power units at Rovno, Khmelnitsky and Zaporozhye nuclear power stations on time. It also provides for the commissioning of facilities to extract and process uranium ore and produce zirconium.

The state committee should draft a plan of forming a currency fund for purchasing equipment and licences for the producing nuclear fuel and storing wastes through exporting electricity generated at nuclear plants.

Earlier the Deputy Chairman of the state committee Nur Nigmatulin told INTERFAX-Ukraine that even with the 14 functioning nuclear power units Ukraine suffers from electricity shortages. According to him, to cover the deficit Ukraine has to commission six reactors at Khmelnitsky, Rovno and Zaporozhye stations, which will require over 1 billion dollars.

Prospects for 'Huge Oil Field' in South, U.S. Aid Viewed

WS1305074894 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 5 May 94 p 1, 2

[Report by Valeriy Polyushko: "According to U.S. Satellite Surveillance, There Is a Huge Oil Deposit in Priazovye"]

[Text] A representative of a Texas oil company paid an unexpected visit to Priazovye rayon, in Zaporozhye Oblast. At a meeting with local authorities, he stated that according to U.S. satellite surveillance, there is a huge oil field in this rayon and the adjacent stretch of Azov Sea, no smaller than the famous field in Kuwait. N. Ormandzhi, deputy chairman of the oblast administration, told a ZAPORIZKA PRAVDA correspondent that the U.S. oil expert had offered Zaporozhye residents assistance in surveying oil deposits, which he believes, lie about 1.5 km below the surface. CIS-made drilling equipment cannot drill deeper than 500 meters.

In the words of the guest, his company, if a relevant agreement is signed, is ready to immediately allocate $10 million for exploratory and test drillings, and will demand no compensation in the event of a negative result.

After the American toured the region, he asked for some preliminary documentation, and promised to return in May. By that time, the authorities need to make a decision.

However, the "Krymgeologiya" and presidential representative in Priazovye rayon, N. Kalayanov, is very much in doubt that there are oil deposits in the region. On the other hand, some 20 years ago, local residents often found some greasy liquid in local rivers, the color and smell of which was reminiscent of oil condensate that is always found near oil deposits.

While it remains to be seen whether U.S. experts will find oil in the rayon, natural gas has already been found here, and plenty of it. According to N. Oramndzhi, the size of gas deposits may amount to 5 billion cubic meters—or even larger, because the 100-meter-deep layer runs way beyond the rayon's boundary.

The "Krymgeologiya" state enterprise, with which the state administration signed an agreement, has already started drilling 12 wells. Each of the wells will enable extraction of as much as 1,000 cubic meters of gas per day. Experts estimate that construction costs of those wells, 1.8 billion rubles, will be earned back within eight months. Those estimates are well grounded—back in 1936, the first experimental gas-filling station in the country was built in Priazovye rayon, and it supplied natural gas to boiler-houses and automobiles until 1950.

So, gas is already in the rayon. There might also be oil. Moneybags from Texas would not throw their money down the drain.

Socioeconomic, Oil, Gas Development Plans Discussed

LD1205202794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2016 GMT 12 May 94

[Report by UKRINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Kiev 13 May TASS—A plan for socio-economic development of Ukraine in 1995 aims primarily at overcoming inflation, stabilizing economic output, and raising the people's living standards.

The plan was considered on Thursday [12 May] at a session of the collegium of the Ukrainian Economics Ministry. It also highlights demonopolizing national economy; fostering small businesses; forming stock market and implementing agricultural reform.

The participants in the session also discussed a national programme called "Ukraine's oil and gas—2010", which provided for a comprehensive evaluation of opportunities to increase both national oil and gas production and reserves.

At present, Ukraine's own gas and oil production may meet 9 to 11 percent (4 mln tonnes) of its oil consumption needs and 18 to 20 percent (18 bln cubic meters) of its gas consumption needs.

An effective use of its natural resources may enable Ukraine to stabilize and, in the long run, increase its oil and gas production to a measure.

New Committee Seeks 'Substantial' Military Powers in Crimea

WS1305102294 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Creation of the standing legislative Commission for Military Issues, Security, and Protection of Servicemen's Rights became a sensation at yesterday's session of the Crimean Supreme Soviet. A report delivered by Mykhaylo Kukushkin, head of the commission and commander of the Black Sea Fleet Air Force Administration, shows that the commission will be seeking substantial powers. In his words, the deputies should watch the movements of all troops on Crimean territory. All military exercises in the Crimea and visits by military ships to local ports can only be conducted when permitted by the Crimean president. The new commission intends to assume control over the activities of the Crimean Security Service.

Collection of Signatures for Kravchuk in Army Criticized

WS1305080194 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 7 May 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Be Careful General! You Are Not at Maneuvers..."]

[Text] On 29 April, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry Collegium held a meeting. During the meeting, important issues concerning military life were discussed. According to a reliable source, after the chairman summed up the meeting and set objectives, a very excited Major General Vladimir Petenko, the president's adviser for military issues, appeared in the room. The supreme commander's envoy made a curious proposal to the generals present in the room—to initiate in the military the emergency collection of signatures supporting the present head of state as a presidential candidate.

This appeal bewildered the top brass just a little bit. Many generals surely recalled the old good times when the high staff would send an instruction suggesting (!) that they ensure active participation of the personnel in some social or political event. This was a written document, while an oral "supplement" specified the exact degree of "support," which the commander had to provide, no matter what.

Now, everything is handled more elegantly; no one is sending any dictates. Instead, they provide oral instructions uttered in a commanding tone. But have those people bothered to think what a disservice they are doing to the president? How will those directives be met in the military—by the 70,000 officers and warrant officers who have been left without a place to live and spend half of their miserable salary on rent? What should soldiers—the main "supporters"—feel when they cannot even buy a decent tube of toothpaste with their allowances?

Yes, organizers of this undertaking should have first thought what they think this Army really is—the defender of the Homeland or a group of people who can be manipulated at will?

Simferopol Deputy Suggests Replacing Ukrainian Military

LD1305104094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Simferopol [no date as received]—Mykhaylo Kukushkin, chairman of the Republic of Crimea Supreme Council Commission for Military Issues, Security, and Servicemen's Protection and chief of a Black Sea Fleet naval directorate, told journalists: "We do not need the units and subunits of the National Guard of Ukraine that are deployed on our territory. What we do need is to form the Republican Guard of Crimea only from the peninsula's citizens. I am convinced that the deputies will support me in this." In Mykhaylo Kukushkin's words, military ships should only be able to sail into the ports of Crimea on coordination with the Crimean president.

Some data suggests that a draft document on setting up the Republican Guard of Crimea has already been prepared and will in the very near future be submitted for consideration by the Crimean parliamentarians.

Belarus

Lukashenko Loses Supporters in Race for Presidency

MK1205105094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 12 May 94 p 5

[Report by Valentin Zhdanko under the "Belorussia" rubric: "Aleksandr Lukashenko Has Lost Slavic Sobor Support. This May Enable Kebich To Get Rid of Main Rival in the Race for Presidency"]

[Text] The "Belaya Rus" Slavic Assembly was the first and the biggest political organization to have spoken up in support of the candidacy of Aleksandr Lukashenko in the race for the presidency and to have actively joined the campaign to collect signatures for his nomination. It is this pan-Slavic organization that formed the backbone of Mr. Lukashenko's initiative group. Its supporters lead the election campaign in the provinces—they were heads of a number of rayon groups that collected signatures.

It became known late on 10 May that some 100 Slavic Assembly activists suddenly declined to support Mr. Lukashenko further and that they would stop collecting signatures for his nomination. The move is being motivated by Aleksandr Lukashenko's alleged retreat from his earlier declared principles of joining Russia in a confederative state and his taking the liberty of voicing critical remarks about the recently signed Russia-Belorussia [Belarus] treaty merging their monetary systems. Besides, Lukashenko brought into his ranks people who, in the opinion of the Slavic Assembly's leaders, far from help the candidate's election program to be ideologically consistent. In particular, helping to put together its economic part is Valeriy Tsepkalo, former economic adviser to ex-speaker Stanislaw Shushkevich.

The sudden split in the camp of Mr. Lukashevich's supporters may have an appreciable influence on the outcome of the campaign to nominate candidates for the presidency. Aleksandr Lukashenko has lost a sixth of his initiative group, and chances are that he may be short precisely this number of votes to be registered as a candidate. The collection of signatures ends 15 May, several days from now.

Many observers believe that the sudden difficulties plaguing Mr. Lukashenko did not arise without some help from the team of Premier Vyacheslaw Kebich. Aleksandr Lukashenko's rating, according to recent sociological polls, was much higher than the prime minister's. Getting rid of a rival before taking the issue to the polls would be in this situation the more effective and logical move on the part of Mr. Kebich.

Parliament Speaker Accused of Contacts With Mafia

LD1205174394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] One of the possible Belarusian presidential candidates, Aleksandr Lukashenko, who led the former parliamentary commission for combating corruption, told voters in Gomel: "Belarus's KGB has audio and video tapes which show that the present Parliament Speaker, Mechyslaw Hryb, had contacts with representatives of criminal structures." Lukashenko demanded that the chairman of the State Security Committee, Gennadiy Lavickiy, "show this material to the public."

In the meantime, Lavickiy told INTERFAX that his committee "has no such materials," and that Lukashenko's statement "is too cheap even for a primitive political provocation."

At his meeting with voters in Gomel Lukashenko dismissed the charges that he opposes the agreement on unifying the Belarusian monetary system with Russian. "I do not oppose it," he pointed out. "However the documents on unifying the two monetary systems are a political show, since Belarus has gained nothing from it in real terms, and Moscow does not want to speak with the Belarusian government." According to Lukashenko, "a truly equitable agreement with Russia can be signed only by his own team, if he is elected president."

Defense Official Outlines Disarmament Progress

WS1305093094 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 6 May 94 p 1, 2

[Interview with Vasil Puhachow, head of the Scientific and Technical Committee in the Belarusian Defense Ministry, by Valer Kalinowski under the "Demilitarization of Belarus" rubric; place and date not given: "Disarmament, Like an Arms Buildup, Costs a Lot of Money"]

[Text] Belarus has been and, most likely, will remain the most militarized country (in terms of arms per 1,000 residents) in Europe. It is obvious that we do not need so many weapons. Yet disarmament, like an arms buildup, costs a lot of money. Foreign aid does not fully cover all of our expenses. When Belarus resolved to dismantle its nuclear weapons as well as shouldered the burden for disarmament within the framework of the Treaty on the Reduction of Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, it was an undoubtedly humane step that cannot be disputed. However, we must know how the process of demilitarization in Belarus is going on and what problems are being encountered. Our correspondent asked Vasil Puhachow, head of the Belarusian Defense Ministry Scientific and Technical Committee, to tell us about these issues.

[Kalinowski] How is nuclear disarmament in Belarus being conducted, and to what degree is it being financed by Russia?

[Puhachow] This is regulated by appropriate interstate agreements, of which the Republic of Belarus is a successor. These agreements determine the list of sites, while the schedule of withdrawal of strategic nuclear forces has been prepared by Belarus and Russia at the governmental level. The withdrawal of forces is fully financed by the Russian side. Russia has also obliged itself to return all cleared sites to appropriate environmental conditions. Some of the missiles have already been withdrawn. In Pastavy, for example, launch sites are already cleared out, but practically no rehabilitation work has been carried out there as of yet. Earlier, the region of Smarhon was a deployment site for old missile systems and SS-25 missiles. According to an agreement, fixed structures there have been blown up. Naturally, blowing up the fixtures is far from the best way of disarming, therefore, I am not sure if it is possible to restore the land at that site in the future... Along with representatives of our National Agency for Control and Inspection, I was in this, now desolate, village. The environmental situation is not being controlled seriously by anybody there... Naturally, the term of withdrawal has not yet expired; in addition, monetary problems are plaguing both the Belarusian and Russian Governments...

[Kalinowski] You assume that Russia will withdraw its missiles, but the environmental problems will be left to us?

[Puhachow] No, I hope that Russia will meet its commitments and, by way of joint efforts, we will return evacuated sites to their proper condition.

[Kalinowski] Are nuclear weapons in Belarus being maintained in a state of combat readiness?

[Puhachow] Yes. There are Russian units, temporarily deployed on our territory, which will operate as a single organ until 1996-97

[Kalinowski] I have heard that the Ukrainian president has the possibility of blocking any hypothetical launching of missiles from Ukrainian territory. Have we such a mechanism, too?

[Puhachow] There is an appropriate agreement on the intergovernmental level, which regulates the participation of Belarus in the resolution of any such problems.

[Kalinowski] Who controls the withdrawal of rocket forces from our side?

[Puhachow] The Defense Ministry has a special group in the National Agency for Control and Inspection to deal with this. The group is headed by General Major Ya.I. Nikulin.

[Kalinowski] Following the visit of the Pentagon chief, U.S. Defense Secretary W. Perry, to Belarus, there were rumors that Belarus will receive more U.S. aid for its demilitarization than other states. Is that true?

[Puhachow] Yes. The United States has come up with an initiative known as the Nunn-Lugar law (these are the names of U.S. senators who proposed this law) to all nuclear states of the former USSR. This law regulates assistance to CIS countries in dismantling nuclear weapons, and is seen by the United States as the most efficient political mechanism for achieving this goal. Due to the Supreme Soviet resolution on the withdrawal of nuclear weapons, Belarus was the first country to establish contacts with the United States for cooperation in the sphere of demilitarization. Initially, only a "framework" agreement was adopted on 22 October 1993, which was called "On dealing with consequences of disastrous situations and the prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction." Following the provisions of this fundamental agreement, five other documents were signed:

1. On supplies of equipment for dealing with the consequences of a disastrous situation, for a total of $5 million;

2. On the establishment of a permanent communications line between Washington and Minsk (it is already established and operational);

3. An agreement on the creation of a system of export controls in the Republic (with an approximate cost of $10 million);

4. On conversion and demilitarization, including the construction of housing for servicemen (as of today, 10,000 servicemen's families are without housing);

5. On resolution of environmental problems in demilitarization—here, the largest sum of assistance is expected—$25 million.

The Americans are very willing to cooperate—primarily on this last problem—promising to supply necessary equipment, of which we are lacking—devices for remote sounding and for detailed analysis of soil in areas vacated by military units. It is foreseen that a map of environmental pollution will be prepared and first-priority measures to restore these areas for the national economy will be worked out jointly. In particular, People's Deputy Volkaw is already conducting very active work to set up rehabilitation centers for Chernobyl children at former strategic military sites, which are ecologically clean. We are planning to cooperate on this program, in particular, in Pastavy...

[Kalinowski] My colleague, Ales Kastsen, has reported in ZVYAZDA on the dubious environmental conditions at this site.

[Puhachow] As of today, we do not have at our disposal an adequate estimate of the environmental situation in the Republic, not to mention at former military sites. At the beginning, one must carry out a general examination and take samples—only then may we make conclusions

about soil conditions, determine the flow of water currents, and so on. I think that some of your colleagues' fears may be substantiated.

[Kalinowski] Let us return to the agreements with the United States and detail what the system of export controls means.

[Puhachow] It concerns controls over exports of dual-purpose goods, or so-called critical technologies, which can be utilized in creating weapons of mass destruction. This is a topical problem. The presence of a system of export controls in a country is considered by the West as the first necessary element for including this country in the global market system. Therefore, the United States is willing to cooperate in this area.

[Kalinowski] How much U.S. material assistance has been allotted and how much of it has already been utilized?

[Puhachow] It is envisioned that we will receive $100 million in 1994. However, it should be added here that the agreements signed by the U.S. side do not provide for some direct financial investment in Belarus, that is, assistance will be rendered in equipment, training, services...

[Kalinowski] By U.S. firms?

[Puhachow] Yes. Originally, by U.S. firms. In their turn, they may either hire cheap labor (for example, to build housing) or conclude contracts with our subcontractors. Still, the general contractors will be U.S. firms. True, the creation of U.S.- Belarusian joint ventures is not excluded. In special situations, for example, the environment, the possibility of Belarusian firms carrying out certain work financed by the United States has been stipulated.

[Kalinowski] In this way, the U.S. Government is taking care of not only Belarus, but also of its business interests?

[Puhachow] Such a strategy has been chosen. Of course, this is not the best version for us, because we, particularly in the housing sector, require purely financial means. This way, as it was resolved, a large percentage of allotted means will go to middlemen. Unfortunately, we are not able to control it for the time being... With regard to your question about the volume of U.S. assistance, which has already been realized in Belarus, the total sum amounts, for the time being, to 10 percent of those agreements concluded for last year.

[Kalinowski] How were these means utilized?

[Puhachow] For the establishment of the permanent communications line, supplies of equipment for dealing with disaster systems, the creation of the system of export control, and the organization of retraining centers for officers.

[Kalinowski] Is the U.S. assistance commensurate to our need for demilitarization?

[Puhachow] I would say that this assistance has a rather political nature, since $100 million, which is to be allotted to assist us, will not suffice to resolve even a single environmental problem. Demilitarization is a very complex and expensive process. The experience of Western firms testifies to the fact that the treatment of 1 cubic meter of polluted soil cost 700-900 German marks... Another complex problem for us is the detoxification of liquid rocket fuel and oxidizers. They must be removed from the territory of the Republic by some means. Russia refuses to accept such shipments. On the other hand, it is known that literally a spoonful of such rocket fuel can poison the entire water table. As of today, there is no other technology for utilizing toxic fuel other than burning it. However, burning costs a lot of money, as well. The German firm "Buk" has implemented a system for burning solid rocket fuel—it cost hundreds of millions of marks...

[Kalinowski] How high are our expenses for the reduction of conventional arms?

[Puhachow] Taking into account our cheap labor force and certain deviations from environmental norms, experts estimate that the destruction of our tanks, BMP personal carriers, and aircraft under the Treaty on the Reduction of Armed Forces in Europe will cost us $33 million.

[Kalinowski] Excuse me, but Lithuania or Latvia have no tanks at all. These countries would probably like to buy them. Is it not better to sell our tanks to them, regardless of how low the price may be?

[Puhachow] That is a justified question. This could be possible if a more far-sighted policy were adopted during the negotiating process. However, the current agreement does not allow us to exceed the quota that was specified in the agreement on destruction. It was agreed that we would destroy them—and we should do just that. An inspection commission takes into account only those pieces of equipment that are brought into a state of uselessness and cannot be updated or restored. Only such items are registered. There is also an agreement allowing us to reequip a certain number of BMP personal carriers and tanks for utilization in the national economy. Specialists at the 140th Tank Repair Plant have already prepared drafts and models of fire engines which are fairly effective in putting out forest fires. There are also projects for installing telescopic cranes on tank or BMP undercarriages, as well as numerous other ideas. However, taking into account the short service life of a tank engine or its "voracity," such a project cannot be competitive.

[Kalinowski] It is because they were intended to serve for purposes other than work. Let us leave the conversion of tanks and speak about the conversion of enterprises in the military industrial complex...

[Puhachow] Actually, there was never such a thing as the military industrial complex in Belarus. We had a number of enterprises—totalling 100—which participated in the

production of completing units, blocks, and elements of military equipment. Yet, unfortunately, we had, and still have, no integrated system, no complex. Due to the halt in orders for our products from Russia and Ukraine, as well as to the fact that those enterprises are incapable of satisfying the needs of our Army, our military industrial complex has been brought to such a state of crisis. Despite the fact that about 40-50 percent of Belarusian industry had been engaged in military production, as of today, only 3-5 percent of the listed requirements of the Belarusian Army can be satisfied by our industry. Our country is compelled to buy completing units, blocks, and assemblies in Russia or Ukraine... The means that these purchases, unfortunately, cannot be utilized in our economy.

[Kalinowski] It seems that Belarus cannot be classified as an arms exporter.

[Puhachow] That is true. Belarus will not be an exporter of arms. Our Republic has never produced completed arms, and we do not produce them now.

Economics Minister Warns of Nonpayments Crisis

LD1205215594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1311 GMT 12 May 94

[Report by BELINFORM correspondent Mikhail Zhuravovich for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 12 May—"The economy of Belorussia [Belarus] has reached the point beyond which it will find itself in a very deep crisis, and it will be far more difficult to get out of it than it is still possible to do so at present," Sergey Ling, the Belarusian economics minister, said in an interview published today in the NATIONAL ECONOMIC NEWSPAPER. According to him, one of the reasons behind the recession is the mass reciprocal nonpayments that have led to stoppages in production. The debts of Belarusian enterprises to the republics of the former USSR already exceed 1.3 trillion rubles and they themselves are owed 890 billion rubles. The total amount of the deficit is not in the Republic's favor. Sergey Ling underlined that "at present, there is no economic mechanism that could smoothly, without ruining production, regulate the problem of nonpayments, nor do measures exist to ensure that payments are made. What is happening is that a process is taking place when old debts are being gradually pushed to the back into the background. At the same, new debts are being incurred."

The Republic's economist also noted that Russia' is responsible for the lion's share of mutual nonpayments. It constitutes half of the total debt. That is why one can reckon that the treaty on the merging of the monetary systems will make it possible in general to take this problem off the agenda. At the same time, "the National Bank should react more actively to the situation. At present, it is spending too much time on criticizing others, and is adopting a duplicitous position regarding the unification of the monetary systems. What is needed here, first and foremost, is a constructive committed work that will make it possible to extricate the economy from its present situation," Sergey Ling underlined.

IMF Director Arrives in Minsk To Negotiate Second Loan

WS1305082794 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] New IMF managing director [name indistinct] paid a visit to Belarus. This was the first visit of this top official. The IMF [words indistinct], of which Belarus is a member. Mr. [name indistinct] held consultations with First Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich, Belarusian National Bank Chairman Stanislaw Bahdankevich, and leaders of economic agencies. Issues of IMF financial support for the government program of economic reforms by means of a second loan on concessionary terms were discussed.

National Bank Disagrees With Monetary Union Treaty

LD1205121094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] The National Bank of Belarus is not in favor of introducing Russia's customs duties in relation to third countries on the territory of the republic, because Russian export and import rates do not take into account the specifications of the Belarus economy. A correspondent from a financial information agency has learned this from a source at the Belarus Parliament.

According to the available information, a few days ago a parliamentary commission for the economic reform received an official reply from the National Bank of Belarus on its queery about the bank's stance with regard to the treaty on the unification of the monetary systems of Belarus and the Russian Federation, signed by the prime ministers of the two countries on 12 April in Moscow. The official reply makes it clear that the National Bank is critical of the treaty and believes that the gain from lifting customs duties is minimal in comparison with the burden of maintaining Russian strategic forces deployed on the territory of Belarus, which will fall on the Belarus state budget.

Commission Adopts Decision To Amend Law on National Bank

WS1305101494 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] The working meeting of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet commission for planning, budget, and finances has addressed the issue of noncash accounts between enterprises. Representatives of the Belarusian National Bank, the Ministry of Finances, the High Economic Court, and the Cabinet of Ministers participated in its work. The experts emphasized that given the recent economic slump, the breakdown of monetary and credit

policies, the process of trading in [products] and balancing mutual accounts between suppliers and consumers has considerably exacerbated. As a result of inadequate finances, working capital is slow to be replenished. Debts for gas, electricity, and thermal energy are growing. Though current legislation regulates mutual accounts between economic sectors rather efficiently, some legal acts, particularly Clause No. 16 of the Law on the National Bank of Belarus, must be supplemented. The commission adopted a decision to discuss this issue at the session of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Supreme Soviet session; to repeal and declare a range of legislative acts—formulating economic pressure on enterprises—as no longer effective; to task the Belarusian National Bank with determining the amount and mechanism for applying economic sanctions when balancing the noncash accounts of those who violate the law.

New Waste Processing Complex Is Built in Gomel Oblast

WS1305095794 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1950 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] The building of the first waste processing facilites dealing with the treatment of solid household and industrial nontoxic waste was begun in the village of Barba, Vetkovskiy Rayon, Gomel Oblast. Construction is to be completed by late (?1994). Then, this processing complex will begin treating the waste from Gomel enterprises. The cost of construction is covered by some 100 Gomel enterprises with which the Gomel Executive Commission signed agreements on sharing expenditures for this project. Gomel authorities had to make this decision when Dorofeeva, chairman of the State Committee for Ecology, and the Belarusian Government refused to earmark financial assistance to them. According to Alyaksandr Titov, chairman of the Gomel Office for Ecology and Radiological Security, he does not understand why the State Committee for Ecology does not use this unique occasion to work out the technology of construction and operation of this complex to eventually free the city from dumping grounds.

Moldova

Snegur Against Russian Military Base

LD1205210994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1934 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Kishinyov [Chisinau] does not agree that the withdrawal of the Fourteenth Russian Army from Moldova be synchronized with granting a special juridical status to Transdniestria. This was stated by Moldovan President Mircea Snegur at his meeting with Deputy U.S. State Secretary, Chief Coordinator on the New Independent States James Collins in Kishinyov today. Snegur said the issue was being discussed with Russia.

Snegur stressed that no Russian military base could be established on Moldovan territory. Information on its establishment was not more than an allegation by the media, he added.

James Collins stated that the participation of Moldova in international organizations and its signing of the NATO Partnership for Peace program proved once again that the Republic was moving towards democratization of its society. He highly appraised the general vision of possible ways of settlement of the problems in Transdniestria and the centers mostly populated by Gagauz displayed by the Moldovan leadership.

Kyrgyzstan

Signing of Memorandum on Political Partnership Postponed

LD1205210394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1934 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] The memorandum on political partnership in the name of nationwide accord, social stability and unity of the Kyrgyz people will not be signed on 13 May, as was expected. INTERFAX learned this from sources close to the Kyrgyz Government.

This document was supported by all political parties, public, cultural and national centers. The memorandum was expected to be signed by Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev, parliament's Chairman Medetkan Sherimkulov, Premier Abbas Dzhumagulov, the Assembly of Kyrgyz Peoples and nine registered political parties.

The signatories were meant to undertake to refrain from actions which could deteriorate the political situation and trigger off public disorder, to back the policy of the republic's leadership and to hold consultations on all major issues of interior policy.

INTERFAX learned that some connection had been suggested to exist between non-signing of the memorandum and the president's press service's statement circulated on 11 May accusing the government of failure in taxation and budget policy. The government considered this as quite unexpected actions, which might lead to negative consequences.

According to some sources, Dzhumagulov had intended to sign the memorandum but postponed the signing when the situation mentioned above emerged and went on a working visit to a Kyrgyz region.

Tajikistan

Foreign Minister Views Next Round of Talks With Opposition

LD1205161094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1441 GMT 12 May 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by diplomatic correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] The next round of talks between the Tajik leadership and the opposition may take place in early June, Foreign Minister Rashid Olimov told INTERFAX on Thursday [12 May].

According to him, at present the special envoy of the U.N. Secretary General for Tajikistan, Ramirez Perez-Bollon, is in Tehran. Later he is planning to go to Islamabad. He is expected to visit Dushanbe on 25-27 May. The U.N. deputy Secretary General for political issues, Marek Golding, is to arrive in Tajikistan's capital together with him. "The U.N. officials will indicate the final date and place for the talks, since earlier we agreed that these questions belong to their competence," Olimov said.

As he said, the Tajik leadership has "enough good will to continue the negotiating process." "At the moment the state of inter-Tajik dialogue provides reason for cautious optimism," the foreign minister said.

According to him, the main thing is that the "negotiating mechanism has been switched on, and the two sides agreed to continue their peace dialogue." "We stand for carrying out the talks in a constructive channel, not in the channel of continued confrontation," Olimov pointed out.

At the same time he deplored the "regular insinuations launched into the news media by some members of the Tajik opposition." "The allegations that the leadership of Tajikistan wants no peaceful settlement, that it is interested in building up Russian military presence in order to crush the opposition, are totally groundless," the foreign minister stressed.

According to him, the "factor of Russian influence" in Tajikistan has "largely cultural, not military, foundations." "Unfortunately, last year we had to involve Russian troops in the guarding of the Tajik-Afghan border in accordance with the CIS collective security treaty. We had to resort to that measure. Russian troops were stationed in Tajikistan to ensure the safety of our republic and protect its sovereignty, not to threaten someone," Olimov said.

"When the threat to security in Tajikistan stemming from the opposition militants entrenched in Afghanistan ceases to exist, the issue of Russian troops will get resolved by itself," he noted. "Unfortunately, armed opposition groups persist in launching regular sallies from neighboring Afghanistan. This is a fact we cannot get away from. In our view, some people are too eager to destabilize the situation in Tajikistan and resolve this issue by military means. They are using the threat allegedly stemming from Russian troops in our republic as a cover for this," Olimov said.

The leadership of Tajikistan "is in a peaceful mood, and it is trying to ignore the speculations concerning the "Russian factor," the head of Tajik diplomacy pointed out.

Tajik Refugees Return Home From Afghanistan

LD1205132794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1015 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] A group of 480 Tajik refugees returned to their homeland from Afghanistan Thursday via a check-point in Nizhny Pyanj.

INTERFAX was informed by the Tajik parliament's commission for refugees that this was the first time in the last three weeks that refugees had been sent home.

The repatriates are from the Khotlon region (formerly Kurgan-Tyube) in southern Tajikistan.

The refugees commission said that at least 25,000 Tajik refugees are still in Afghanistan.

Rakhmonov Confirms Decision to Rejoin Ruble Zone

LD1305083194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0742 GMT 13 May 94

[Report by TIA KHOVAR correspondent Abdugaffor Kurbonov for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe 13 May TASS—"It can now be said with certainty that Tajikistan will rejoin the ruble zone—the country's welfare depends on this first of all. We will build a single economic space with Russia," Tajikistan's leader Emomali Rakhmonov said at a meeting with local activists in the mountainous region of Tajikabad on 12 May.

"We discussed these questions with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and government chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin," Rakhmonov said.

At present the heads of government of the two countries are busy drafting relevant bilateral agreements to cover all economic aspects of the merger—banking, customs, and taxation.

Turkmenistan

Ailing Niyazov Facing Rumors of Impending Coup

MK1205102094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 12 May 94 p 4

[Report by Mikhail Gerasimov under the "Power" rubric: "Struggle for the Post of Turkmenistan President Has Already Commenced. Rumors Around the Republic Speak of Possible Coup d'Etat"]

[Text] According to information from trustworthy sources, the state of health of Turkmenia [Turkmenistan] President Saparmurad Niyazov continues to worsen every day, and he is planning a new course of treatment in Houston (United States), where he recently was operated on for blood vessel problems, or in Turkey. For this reason he has been absent of late from ceremonial events including those held in his honor. The Turkmenia president's press service denies information on Niyazov's deteriorating health while rumors are circulating in the Republic about a possible coup d'etat.

The rivalry for the Turkmenian presidency is already on. Those intending to compete for the position of head of state are Agriculture Minister Payzgeldy Meredov, and Kurban Orazov, head of the Mary Oblast administration. Notably, according to information from trustworthy sources, both "rivals" will not stop short of a coup d'etat in the president's absence.

Payzgeldy Meredov has headed the republic's agricultural agency for many years, and he makes his own decisions on the destinies of Turkmenian cotton by setting prices and export quotas. As his comrades-in-arms think, he has amassed a vast fortune selling cotton and is the country's wealthiest man.

Kurban Orazov has long been head of the republic's Mary Oblast in addition to heading Turkmenistan's central electoral committee.

President S. Niyazov, who once gambled on these men, lately has been preferring Valeriy Otchertsov and Boris Shikhmuradov, vice prime ministers for the economy and politics. They, however, enjoy no prestige among the republic's inhabitants because they do not know national peculiarities, traditions, and the local language. Both vice prime ministers are openly hostile to one another and compete for influence with President Niyazov.

Valeriy Otchertsov is a more devoted follower of President Niyazov. In Soviet times, he held the position of second secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee and, being Moscow's protege, controlled local leaders' activities.

Local observers believe that rumors of a possible coup are being spread mainly by P. Meredov's men in order to psych up the public for this event. The majority of the Turkmen leadership gamble precisely on Meredov, regarding Vice Premiers Otchertsov and Shakhmuradov as temporary executors of the current Turkmenistan president's will.

In the meantime, leaders of the Turkmenian opposition based in Moscow are alarmed at the rumors being spread about a possible coup d'etat in Turkmenistan, and they firmly state that the opposition, in the shape of the "Turkmenistan" fund organization, has enough resources and potentialities to hinder this.

Characterizing the information about a possible coup d'etat in Turkmenistan, Murat Esenov, an opposition leader and the "Turkmenistan" fund general director, stated in an interview for your SEGODNYA correspondent that the actions of P. Meredov and K. Orazov could entail undesirable consequences for the country. Due to the absence of a social base and prestige among the population, they intend to gamble on the "power" ministries in the struggle for power. Therefore, heads of these ministries should take into account the experience of their close neighbors Tajikistan and Afghanistan, where civil war erupted after a similar situation had developed.

Answering questions from your correspondent, Murat Esenov confirmed information on the deteriorating state of health of the head of state and added, "We would be glad to see the president in good health and compete with him on a legal basis in the 1997 presidential elections. Members of the opposition will by all means insist on holding them irrespective of the referendum results on extending President Niyazov's powers.

Parliament Discusses Niyazov Plan to Encourage Savings

LD1305100194 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 13 May 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A three-year program for Turkmenistan's socio-economic development was proposed at today's meeting of the republican parliament in Ashgabat. Our correspondent says it was drafted by President Niyazov. The program is entitled "10 Years of Prosperity" and contains specific presidential proposals. These include, for example, the idea that there should be a change in the ratio between the proportion of wages devoted to living expenses and the proportion set aside as savings. The leaders of contemporary Turkmenistan claim that citizens should be able to save 30-40 percent of their income and that all the necessary conditions have been created in the Republic for this.

Argentine Foreign Minister Hold Talks in Ashgabat

LD1205215794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1525 GMT 12 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS-TURKMEN PRESS correspondent Dzhennet Arrykova]

[Text] Ashgabat, 12 May—Bilateral economic cooperation between Argentine and Turkmenistan were today discussed at a meeting between Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella and Turkmenistan Vice President Boris Shikhmuradov.

The Argentine minister demonstrated great interest in Turkmen projects in the field of power engineering that, he said, are of world importance.

The Argentine guest today arrived in Ashgabat on an official visit.

Armenia

Columnist Notes Contentment With Bishkek Talks

MK1205112094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 May 94 p 3

[Report by Armen Khanbabyan in the "Armenia" column: "The Risk of War Has Given Way to the Risk of Peace. Yerevan and Stepanakert Are Content With the Results of the Bishkek Meeting"]

[Excerpt] Armenian parliament speaker Babken Ararktsyan believes that realism has triumphed at the meeting in Bishkek. Its main achievement, according to him, has been the recognition by all the participants in the negotiations of some political realities, without which the advance to peace is impossible. These are: a stable cease-fire, recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh as a party to the conflict, and lifting all blockades—and only after this, discussions about the status of the region. Ararktsyan stressed several times that the proposed plan is based on a "land in exchange for peace" formula, which carries a substantial share of risk for Armenia and Karabakh. But in exchange Armenia and Karabakh will get territories, from which their troops will be pulled out, as well as the lifting of the blockade, and peace. Both acquisitions, in Ararktsyan's opinion, are fairly fragile because the blockade can be easily resumed and peace breached. But Yerevan and Stepanakert are ready to take "the risk of peace" even with minimum guarantees, which provided a foundation for their signing the Bishkek protocol without any provisos.

Baku's hesitations, on the other hand, were quite lengthy. Yerevan is inclined to believe that they were primarily related to the fact that Azerbaijan lacks a coherent policy with respect to the CIS and, secondly, its hope to secure support in NATO headquarters and in Ankara, which Geydar Aliyev has visited. And only when it became clear that NATO is not disposed toward serious military support of Azerbaijan, and Ankara confined itself to purely rhetorical statements, was it decided to sign the protocol, although with some qualifications. The addition of the word "international" to the term "observers" apparently suits Yerevan and Stepanakert no less than it does Baku. True, the replacement of the definition "acquired [zanyatyye] territories" by "captured [zakhvachennyye] territories" does not seem just so unequivocal because this immediately raises the question of who exactly captured them. On this count, incidentally, Vladimir Shumeyko, in his closing statement in Bishkek, said that during the discussion of this point the Karabakh side agreed even to the term "occupied" [okkupirovannyye], but demanded the specification that these territories were occupied precisely by the Defense Army of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. At the time this was assessed as an aspiration toward indirect affirmation of status, and the formulation was rejected.

Even so, neither Yerevan nor Stepanakert so far has any official confirmation that the Azerbaijan side has really signed the protocol. According to Ashot Antinyan, adviser to the Armenian parliament speaker, "Apart from a telephone assurance by Rasul Guliyev, we have no other evidence about this." The speaker's aide furthermore expressed a certain amazement over the fact that of the two [authorized] copies [ekzemplyary] of the text of the protocol, one is in St. Petersburg, at the headquarters of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, and the other is in Bishkek, and therefore it is not clear which of them has been signed by the head of the Azerbaijan parliament. Duplicates [Kopii] in such cases have no legal validity. According to Arkadiy Gukasyan, foreign minister of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, neither has anyone in Stepanakert seen the text signed by Guliyev. [passage omitted]

Delegation Member on Bishkek Results

944K1201A Yerevan GOLOS ARMENII in Russian 10 May 94 p 1

[Report on interview with Seyran Bagdasaryan, chairman of the special commission of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Armenia on Artsakh, recorded by M. Grigoryan: "Who Is Who—Was Clearly Shown by the Meeting in Bishkek"]

[Text] As we know, on Saturday a news conference was held by the speaker of the Armenian parliament, B. Ararktsyan, where he told journalists about the meeting in Bishkek of parliamentary delegations of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, but the press center of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Armenia, for incomprehensible reasons, did not consider it necessary to invite a correspondent from GOLOS ARMENII to it. We asked a member of the Armenian delegation and chairman of the special commission of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Armenia on Artsakh, Seyran Bagdasaryan, to share his impressions.

The meeting in Bishkek, which by stretching things a great deal might be called negotiations, was planned back last fall during a meeting on the Aland Islands, whose delegation, incidentally, also came to the capital of Kyrgyzstan. A fair amount of weight was added to the Bishkek meeting by the participation in it of the chairman of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS, V. Shumeyko. Since it was planned for the top people of all three countries—the Azerbaijan Republic, the Republic of Armenia, and the Nagorno- Karabakh Republic—to participate, it was suggested that the range of issues be broad and significant, the more so since the meeting was preceded, as we know, by a trip to Moscow by the chairman of the Azerbaijan parliament, Guliyev, during the course of which an agreement was signed for interparliamentary cooperation of the two countries. All this showed that the groundwork for Bishkek had been done fairly well.

But expectations were not met from the very beginning: Instead of Guliyev, Azerbaijan "jokingly" sent his deputy Dzhalilov. And this was when the night before Shumeyko had personally received Aliyev's assurances that the chairman of the Assembly would arrive in Bishkek the next morning. For Shumeyko and Shirinkulov this was, one might say, a "cold shower," exacerbated even more by the personality and behavior of Dzhalilov, who came as the leader of the delegation from the Republic of Azerbaijan. The explanation that Aliyev was in Brussels and therefore, Guliyev could not come was not taken seriously.

All this showed that the Azeris certainly did not come with serious intentions and were merely trying to take advantage of the meeting for their own irritating propaganda statements and tricks. Predicting this, the delegation from Armenia prepared a number of statements and documents in response. Unfortunately, our misgivings were confirmed: Instead of a greeting, the Azeris offered worn-out cliches about aggression, seizure of territory, etc., etc. In my view, this more likely produced the opposite reaction. B. Ararktsyan, conversely, in his speech suggested discussing all possible approaches in the most serious way.

A document prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia headed by V. Kazimirov was distributed. It was called the "Bishkek Protocol" which essentially in the style of appeals presented suggestions to participants in the meeting. I consider a key feature of the document as well, incidentally, as of the whole meeting, to be the appeal to the heads of the CIS states to immediately discuss and resolve the issue of creating a contingent of peacekeeping forces in the CIS.

But from the very beginning of the negotiations there was a fairly heated "dialogue" between the representatives of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh, in which the delegation from Armenia was fairly restrained, thus emphasizing that the main problems lie on the plane of mutual relations of these two parties. Incidentally, there is no truth to the rumors that the Karabakh delegation was not allowed into the negotiation hall on the first day. The Karabakh delegation consisting of K. Babulyan and A. Gukasyan was very active, demonstrating their natural right to be called leaders of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and to represent it.

As for the Azeri parliamentarians, they basically used the same old cliches they used two years ago and a similar primitive approach could not but surprise the other participants in the meeting.

Be that as it may, work was started on Kazimirov's document, and if the delegation from Armenia fully supported it with small corrections, Azerbaijan from the very beginning started to demand that representatives from the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic be excluded from those who signed it. In my view, their behavior was based primarily on their refusal to accept the point about the creation of peacekeeping forces in the CIS. Such a "work style" on the part of the Azeri delegation forced Shumeyko and Shirinkulov to get together for a couple of hours with the leaders of the delegations. Essentially Shumeyko's authority was on the line and his desire to bring the two sides to common ground was quite understandable. But this looked rather strange if not ridiculous: Almost every hour Dzhalilov ran out of the office and disappeared into the corridor, after which he was almost forced to return (even, excuse me, from the toilet). And he would disappear at precisely those moments when it seemed that everything was ready for signing. After his return everything would begin all over again. Dzhalilov wasted time and, if I may say so, simply made fools out of all the participants, stating that he had to coordinate the text with Baku.

Unfortunately, as a result, changes were made in the document that weaken it a fair amount. Dzhalilov demanded that a point be included concerning occupation of 20 percent of the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to which K. Baburin responded that he would agree under the condition that they specified precisely who would occupy it: troops of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. Toward the end of the meeting the leader of the Azerbaijan delegation stated that in general, he was not authorized to sign anything at all. In his concluding speech, Shumeyko clearly summed everything up, stating, in particular, that Nagorno-Karabakh had to be recognized as a party both to the conflict and to the negotiations—without this, no solution would be found. The Azeri delegation ended up in simply an odious position and this, incidentally, was felt by its members themselves, with whom we had numerous meetings. Our opponents accused us of causing Russia to return to the region and this could lead to an encroachment on the independence of our states. They also suggested direct bilateral negotiations, but we know quite well what attempts at such contacts can lead to.

I think that now Aliyev is playing out the Western "part" of his policy, trying to straddle the fence. But his game is so transparent that only naive people could fail to see through it, and the response, it seems to me, will be appropriate for his policy.

As for the Bishkek Protocol, it is so weak on the plane of concrete content that even in Baku they considered it necessary to announce its signing. Nonetheless one can say simply that the Azeris lost in Bishkek—and mainly in terms of their political image in the world. And, conversely, the Karabakh representatives, who signed the document and committed themselves to a unilateral cease-fire, took the political initiative in the region to a certain degree.

At the last hour, speaking at a session of the Armenian parliament on 9 May, speaker B. Ararktsyan announced that the night before he was told by telephone from Baku that Azerbaijan had agreed to sign the Bishkek protocol.

Former Presidential Adviser Arrested

944K1201B Yerevan GOLOS ARMENII in Russian 10 May 94 p 1

[NOYAN TAPAN report: "Vaan Avakyan Arrested"]

[Text] The arrest of the former first deputy chief adviser to the president of the country on national security, Vaan Avakyan, in a Moscow airport where he had arrived from Bulgaria was announced in Yerevan. Avakyan was in Sofia until recently. The arrested person was turned over to Yerevan. Vaan Avakyan stands accused of trying to take documents containing state secrets outside the country. The arrest was coordinated with the Procuracy of Russia and the Russian special services. The investigation is being conducted by the investigatory department of the State National Security Administration of the Republic of Armenia. It is assumed that on 9 May, Avakyan will be permitted to see a lawyer.

Turkey, Iran Send Electricity to Nakhichevan

944K1201C Yerevan GOLOS ARMENII in Russian 10 May 94 p 1

[NOYAN TAPAN report: "Turkey and Iran Have Taken Over Supply of Electric Energy for Nakhichevan"]

[Text] "Because the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic continues to be blockaded and is experiencing an energy shortage, we have concluded a contract with Turkey and Iran for deliveries of electric energy to the autonomous Republic," the chief of the department of foreign economic relations of the Azerenerzhi company, A. Guseynov, announced to a correspondent from the Khabarservis agency. In his words, Iran has made a commitment to supply the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic with electric energy throughout this year—200 million kilowatt-hours—and Turkey is guaranteeing the delivery of about 300 million kilowatt-hours of electric energy per year.

Azerbaijan

Azeri Troops Reportedly Violate Karabakh Cease-Fire

LD1205105994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1044 GMT 12 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS corespondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan 12 May TASS—The Russian and CSCE-brokered cease-fire, which was to come into force in Nagorno-Karabakh last midnight was violated by Azerbaijani troops on Thursday [12 May] morning when they tried to break through Karabakh positions on the Adgam frontline.

According to the Karabakh Army headquarters, the Azerbaijani forces were repelled and had to retreat to previous positions.

The press department of the enclave reported, quoting military sources, that Azerbaijan in concentrating forces to the north of the mardakert region of Karabakh.

However, it was quiet on the Armenian border overnight and in the morning. No incidents were registered there, TASS was told by the Armenian Defence Ministry.

Fierce Fighting Continues

LD1205170994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1326 GMT 12 May 94

[Report by AZERTAJ correspondent Gekchekhaunum Tagiyeva for TASS]

[Text] Baku 12 May TASS—Azerbaijani troops have been engaged in bloody fights for the settlements of Seisulan and Gapanly (the Tertery district, Azerbaijan) for more than 24 hours.

These settlements were occupied by Armenian forces on Wednesday [11 May].

According to the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry, its troops managed to drive the enemy out of Gapanly by the end of the day on Wednesday. By 1200 on Thursday, Azerbaijani troops managed to force their way to the southern outskirts of Seisulan.

Armenian troops continued to shell Azerbaijani defences in the Geranboi and Kelbajar districts, the ministry said.

Hard Fighting in Terterskiy District

NC1205173094 Baku AZERTAC in English 1847 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Baku, 12 May (AZERTAC)—The Azeri Armed Forces have been fighting for more than 24 hours, trying to restitute villages of Seysulan and Gapanli, which are situated in the district of Terterskiy and were occupied by the Armenian Armed Forces yesterday. According to the Defence Ministry of Azerbaijan, Azeri soldiers drove out the enemy from the village of Gapanli yesterday in the evening. The Armenian Armed Forces resumed their offensive in this sector of the front today in the morning. Units of the Azeri Army approached the southern outskirts of the village of Seysulan in the afternoon, the Defence Ministry reported.

The Azeri defences are subject to heavy shelling in the districts of Geranboyskiy and Kelbadzharskiy.

Yerevan Radio Reports Fighting

NC1205210994 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The situation on NKR's front line continues to be unstable. Regardless of the protocol Azerbaijan signed in Bishkek, that Republic has violated the cease-fire by

intensely firing on the Armenian defense positions with various types of arms. Furthermore, it has launched extensive attacks with armored vehicles every day. The situation in Mardakerskiy and Agdamskiy Rayons is tense. However, it must be stressed that the effort by the Azerbaijan Military Command Headquarters to take the initiative at the front line has not achieved its objective. As usual, the NKR defense forces have repulsed the enemy attacks and forced Azerbaijan's units to retreat after suffering casualties and losing military equipment.

A short while ago the NKR Defense Army Headquarters Press Service disclosed that Azerbaijan's military forces had attacked the NKR defense positions in Agdamskiy Rayon this morning. A wave of artillery shelling preceded their onslaught. However, they failed to achieve their goal. The NKR units rebuffed their attack and forced them to retreat after suffering casualties and losing military equipment.

According to the NKR intelligence units, Azerbaijan has begun to deploy additional military units in Mardakertskiy Rayon's northern areas. [passage indistinct]

An enemy infantry unit made up of 300 men attacked [place name indistinct], Yarymdzha, and [place name indistinct] in Mardakertskiy Rayon yesterday. Their attack was preceded by an intensive wave of artillery fire. Violent clashes took place in the region. The NKR forces not only blocked the attack, but also counterattacked. Initial reports from the area said the Azerbaijani units lost 60 men, while two men were killed and 11 were wounded on the Armenian side.

Clashes occurred in the western side of [place name indistinct] in Agdamskiy Rayon yesterday afternoon. Meanwhile, the enemy shelled the NKR defense positions in the direction of the Omar Pass in the northern part of Fizulinskiy and Kelbadzharskiy Rayons with artillery. No one was hurt. The Armenians [words indistinct] return the fire. The military operations continued throughout the day. The NKR military units launched counterattacks. They completely liberated [place name indistinct] in Mardakertskiy Rayon.

In short, [words indistinct]. But no noticeable change has occurred in the operations zone.

The situation on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan has been relatively peaceful during the past few days.

Officials Comment on Nagorno-Karabakh Settlement

LD1205173994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 12 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] INTERFAX has learned that a confidential meeting between Azerbaijani leader Heydar Aliyev and other officials and the plenipotentiary representative of the Russian president for the Nagorno-Karabakh settlement, Vladimir Kazimirov, could be held Thursday [12 May].

Besides other issues, the meeting will focus on the date and agenda of the Azerbaijani-Armenian summit planned to be held in Moscow.

IF Note: In an interview with INTERFAX, Armenian Presidential Assistant Levon Zurabyan confirmed the possibility of such a meeting under Russia's auspices. He said pleparatory diplomatic activities were carried out through the mediation by the Russian side. As has been reported, the Azerbaijani-Armenian summit planned to be held during the CIS April summit was disrupted. Armenia has been maintaining that the reason for the disruption was Azerbaijan's reluctance to accept the Russian plan for the settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh.

In an interview with INTERFAX, Kazimirov pointed out that an Azerbaijani-Armenian summit could be useful on a rather advanced stage of consideration of the draft settlement agreement," based on the Russian design.

Kazimirov pointed out the main provisions of the Russian settlement plan. The first stage is "short, but crucial and complicated"—the establishment of a cease-fire. The second stage involves a shift to the elimination of consequences of the armed conflict, including a withdrawal of troops from the occupied territories, exchange of prisoners of war, hostages, bodies of the killed, information of those missing in action or killed, reintroduction of the transport and power lines and the repatriation of refugees to their permanent locations. On the third stage, political talks on the future legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh will be launched.

"Whenever the sides are close enough to signing such a draft agreement, such a meeting in Moscow will be possible," Kazimirov was quoted as saying.

Zurabyan said the Moscow summit was envisioned by a protocol signed at the meeting of Armenian, Azerbaijani and Nagorno-Karabakh parliamentarians in Bishkek on 5 May through the mediation of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly.

IF Note: Azerbaijani Parliamentary Speaker Rasul Guliyev who signed the document with a number of stipulations came under harsh criticisms by the parliamentary opposition, the National Independence Party lead by Etibar Mamedov. According to the party, Guliyev committed high treason by signing the Bishkek protocol "together with the leader of the Supreme Soviet of a non-existent so-called Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, Karen Baburyan." The party said Guliyev "created all necessary conditions for the recognition of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic as a subject of the international law

and open the possibility for concluding an agreement which would legalize the deployment of Russian troops in Azerbaijan."

In the meantime, Nagorno-Karabakh Foreign Minister Arkady Gukasyan did not preclude that the reports on Azerbaijan's signing the Bishkek protocol on the settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh on 8 May were another tactical step by Baku. In Gukasyan's opinion, only the deployment of peacekeeping forces was capable of putting an end to the bloodshed.

Azerbaijani Defense Minister Mamadrafi Mammadov, his Armenian counterpart, Serzh Sargsyan, and the Nagorno-Karabakh troops commander, Samvel Babayan, signed an agreement Wednesday midnight to cease-fire as of 0000 on 12 May, Interfax learned from well-informed sources from in Stepanakert.

Meanwhile, the Nagorno-Karabakh Army press service reported fierce fighting along the frontline, despite the cease-fire agreement signed. The press service said that after a heavy shelling Azerbaijani troops attempted to break the Nagorno-Karabakh defense near the village of Yusifdzhanly of the Agdam district at about 0700 Thursday.

The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry reported Armenian units had tried to develop their offensive on Geranboi and Agdam yesterday night.

Stepanakert Not Sure Baku Will Observe Bishkek Protocol

LD1105204694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1807 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] The Foreign Minister of the self-proclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Arkady Gukasian does not rule out the possibility that reports about Azerbaijan signing the Bishkek protocol of a settlement in Karabakh on 8 May is another tactical move on the part of Baku. He said Stepanakert has not yet received the protocol signed by the speaker of the Azeri parliament Rasul Guliyev.

In a Wednesday [11 May] interview with INTERFAX Gukasian said that in reality the Azeri side is psychologically not ready for the peaceful settlement of the conflict. He named as evidence the situation on the frontline where Azeri troops continue attacking Karabakh positions.

Gukasian stressed that a political settlement is impossible without guarantees of a complete cease-fire. He also declared that Nagorno-Karabakh should be recognized as a conflicting side. In his opinion only the deployment of a peace-keeping force in the conflict zone can stop the bloodshed.

CZCE Minsk Group Chairman, Yeltsin Envoy Head for Baku

LD1205131694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1015 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] The chairman of the CSCE Minsk Group for Nagorno-Karabakh, Ian Eliasson, his deputy Mathias Mosberg, and the Russian President's envoy for settling the conflict in Karabakh, Vladimir Kazimirov, are expected to arrive in Baku on Thursday [12 May], Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry told INTERFAX.

As INTERFAX learned from the State Counsellor for Humanitarian Issues, Gabil Guseinli, their goal is to review developments in the area of the Armenian-Azeri confrontation, and discuss further steps aimed at settling the conflict politically.

According to him, the guests will also visit Yerevan and Stepanakert. In Azerbaijan Kazimirov and the CSCE officials may inspect Azeri refugee camps, Guseinli said.

As a consistent supporter of a peaceful solution to the conflict, Guseinli stressed, Baku "welcomes the efforts of any countries and international organizations proclaiming their willingness to help in resolving the conflict and to undertake certain mediatory functions." Therefore Azerbaijan will welcome any steps suggested by the CSCE and Russia with a view to restoring peace in the area, the state counsellor said.

Georgia

Abkhazia Opposes CIS Troops on Abkhaz Territory

LD1205131394 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1045 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 12 May—Representatives of the Abkhazian side at the Georgian-Abkhazian talks in Moscow have said that they are against the deployment of CIS or Russian troops on the entire territory of the Abkhazian region. They justifyg their stance through the fact that the United Nations has not yet adopted a resolution on the deployment of peacekeeping forces in the Abkhazian region.

According to observers, the Abkhazian side's stance is just an excuse in order not to compromise.

Abkhazians Said Disinclined To Compromise at Moscow Talks

LD1205141794 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1045 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 12 May—Davit Demetrashvili, head of the press center at the Embassy of the Republic of Georgia in the Russian Federation, told an IBERIA

correspondent that the current round of Georgian-Abkhaz talks are proceeding in an extremely heavy and tense manner and that the Abkhaz side is disinclined to compromise.

Draft Document on Cease-Fire, Forces Deployment Prepared

LD1205164294 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Talks on the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, mediated by Russia, continued today in Moscow. According to a participant in the talks, Abkhazia's envoy to Russia Igor Akhba, a draft document on the cease-fire and the deployment of forces was prepared yesterday following yesterday's discussion. According to the draft, the two sides will separate their forces from the confrontation line along the Inguri River at a distance of 12 km. A buffer zone is being created, where the CIS peacekeeping forces will be deployed under UN observers.

The status of Abkhazia will be discussed in June in Geneva. The report by the envoy of the Republic of Abkhazia says that a document on setting up a coordinative commission was signed. The commission is to resolve the issues connected with economy, transportation, and ecology.

Work on Cease-fire Agreement Continues

LD1205190494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] The Georgian delegation at the Moscow talks on settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia decided today to finish drafting the agreement on cease-fire and separation of the forces discussed over the two last days. This was announced by a member of the Georgian delegation, First Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Ukleba in an interview with INTERFAX.

He pointed out that at the moment the document was not ready. Ukleba said it should be finished so that it reflects the main idea of ensuring the safe return of refugees and displaced persons. He added that this was the main purpose of deployment of the peacekeeping forces in the conflict zone.

Ukleba stressed that this did not mean the talks had been wrecked since the consultations would continue on Friday [13 May].

He suggested that the document would be prepared by 13 May in the evening. "I do not how much ready we will be for its signing," Ukleba emphasized.

In accordance with the draft, the Georgian and Abkhazian formations must be withdrawn for 12 km away from the Inguri River creating a 24-km buffer zone where the CIS peacekeeping forces would be deployed. They are expected to be formed of Russian military contingency. UN observers will also be stationed in this zone.

Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze stated in parliament on 12 May that the talks in Moscow were "very difficult."

Russian Official Assesses Meeting of Refugees Commission

LD1305095794 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Talks in Sochi on the return of refugees, which were attended by Georgian and Abkhazian delegations, by representatives of Russia and the United Nations, and by experts have ended.

Igor Syzov, Sochi city's press secretary, talked to a KONTAKT news agency correspondent today about the talks.

[Begin Syzov recording in Russian] The third session of the Commission for Refugees was held here and a protocol adopted. The regulations on rules and the procedure for working out recommendations, prepared by a working group of experts, were confirmed. These recommendations define the rules for creating conditions for the voluntary, safe, and proper return of refugees. The agenda for the commission's next session, which is planned for 30 May in Sochi, has been approved.

The meeting proceeded in a constructive atmosphere. [end recording]

Abkhaz Official Favors Presence of CIS or UN Forces

LD1305103194 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Igor Akhba, envoy of the so-called Abkhazia to the Russian Federation, has declared that it is all the same for Abkhazia who plays the role of peacekeeping forces—UN forces or CIS special units. According to Akhba, the key issue is the deployment of forces solely in the buffer zone.

The clause in the agreement on the deployment of troops in the conflict zone, unexpectedly for the Georgian side, was presented by representatives of Russia, the UN, and the European Union.

In the opinion of Georgian delegation members, the Abkhaz version of the settlement of the conflict suits the UN, the European Union, and Russia, because should CIS troops rather than UN forces enter the conflict zone, the issue of financing the troops will automatically be resolved as the CIS states and Georgia will have to undertake this task.

According to some analysts, Georgia's signing of this document could exacerbate the domestic political situation in Georgia.

Talks are continuing in Moscow.

Estonia

Prime Minister Signs Economic Agreements in London

WS1305095494 Tallinn BNS in English 1723 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, May 12, BNS—Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd today signed in London two agreements on economic issues, the Foreign Ministry press service told BNS.

The treaty on the promotion and protection of investments lays down the parties' obligations and rights in reciprocal protection of investments.

The parties undertake to give allround support to the investments made by each other's investors and create conditions for them that are not less favorable than those for a third country's investments.

Both parties guarantee adequate compensation to investors in the event of damage to investments and promise not to expropriate the property of investors of the other party. The treaty lays down rules concerning resolving of disagreements and exceptions to them.

The treaty will be submitted for ratification in the parliament. It is concluded for a period of ten years and upon expiration of the term will be extended until one of the parties initiates and completes the procedures to repeal it.

The other agreement signed today concerns avoiding double taxation and preventing tax evasions.

The treaty lays down rules and conditions for imposing taxes on the income of permanent residents of both parties if those incomes derive from both Estonia and Great Britain.

The objective of the treaty is to avoid a situation when persons who get income in both states must also pay tax on them in both. It provides for exchange of information between both countries' competent organs to implement the treaty and prevent fraud.

After ratification of the treaty by both parties it steps into force with regard to Estonian taxation from the beginning of the next calendar year and in Great Britain from April 6, 1995, with regard to the personal income and the capital gains tax and from April 1 with regard to the corporate income tax.

Defense Minister To Pay Working Visit to Israel, Meet Rabin

WS1205144994 Tallinn BNS in English 1308 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, 12 May, BNS—Estonian Defense Minister Indrek Kannik leaves today for a working visit to Israel, the Defense Ministry told BNS.

Kannik is scheduled to familiarize himself with the Israeli aircraft industry in Tel Aviv today and have meetings with Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and several senior officials at the Israeli Defense Ministry tomorrow.

Foreign Minister Attends Council of Europe Session

WS1205115094 Tallinn BNS in English 0906 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, 12 May, BNS—Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik attended on Wednesday [11 May] a session of the Council of Europe [CE] committee of ministers in Strasbourg. At the top of the agenda were expansion of the Council of Europe and the CE Vienna declaration on combating anti-Semitism, racism and other manifestations of intolerance.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Juri Arusoo told BNS that most representatives from the CE member states underscored that Russia, in order to become a full member of the CE, must withdraw its troops from Estonia and Latvia. Arusoo said the participants affirmed no exceptions in admission to the CE can be made for Russia.

Luik emphasized in his address that Russia, to gain full membership in the CE, must pull out its troops from the Estonian territory, abandon the "near abroad" concept in its foreign policy, and give an unequivocal assessment to the events in Estonia in 1940.

The session discussed the Vienna declaration that was adopted by the October meeting of the CE member states' heads of state and government.

Luik signed on Wednesday in Strasbourg the 11th protocol of the European Convention on Human Rights, which introduces some amendments in the mechanism that controls the implementation of the convention.

The protocol foresees the formation of a permanent European Court of Human Rights to interpret the convention. The court will accept petitions about human rights violations from individuals, groups of people, and states.

The signed protocol comes into force from the moment of ratification. The Estonian parliament also has to ratify the human rights convention and ten other protocols pertaining to it.

Russian Admiral, Officers Refused Landing Permission

LD1205185394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Russian Navy Baltic Fleet Commander Vladimir Yegorov failed to arrive in Estonia today in order to supervise Russian troop withdrawal. The plane carrying

Yegorov and a group of officers was refused landing in the Amari airport which remains in the disposition of the Russian Armed Forces.

Estonian Foreign Ministry Press Secretary Mari-Ann Rikken told Interfax that the appropriate notification had been transmitted by the Russian Embassy in Tallinn only two days before. She underlined that the internationally accepted norms demanded at least fifteen days for consideration. No information on the officers accompanying Yegorov had been given. Rikken said this had made impossible to authorize them to come to Estonia.

However, Russian Military Attache in Estonia Anatoliy Chizhikov told Interfax that Russia and Estonia had an agreement giving five days for consideration of notifications on landing of military jets, although such issues were as a rule resolved within one or two days. Chizhikov pointed out that the Russian Embassy had received no clarification on new terms for consideration of such notifications and refused to comment on the decision by the Estonian Foreign Ministry.

Russia Said 'Putting Off' Dismantling of Paldiski Reactors

WS1205144394 Tallinn BNS in English 1308 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, 12 May, BNS—The Russian side has still not announced the date when the dismantling of the nuclear reactors in the former Russian naval base in Paldiski is to begin, Juri Tikk, the special representative of the government in Paldiski, told BNS.

Justice Minister Kaido Kama told BNS early in May that the dismantling will probably start on 15 May. In accordance with the agreed procedure, Russia is supposed to inform the Estonian authorities of the starting date a week in advance. Tikk declined to confirm or deny the operation going ahead on 15 May.

Tikk claimed both parties are prepared to immediately begin the dismantling of the reactors. He said, however, that the two containers for the removed nuclear fuel have not yet reached Paldiski. Still, it is not clear why the Russian side keeps putting off the operation, Tikk told BNS.

The government allocated earlier this month 1.4 million kroons to cover the expenses of the dismantling. Kama said a large share of the sum comes from foreign aid contributions made specifically for the purpose.

A special ministerial commission was formed at the end of April to monitor and regulate the removal of the nuclear reactors from Paldiski. Earlier the same month the Cabinet ruled to enforce a special regime in the Pakri peninsula where Paldiski is located for the duration of the dismantling. Also, a special rescue unit was formed to ensure safety of the operation.

Bill Allows State Radio, TV To Engage in Advertising

WS1305092194 Tallinn BNS in English 1723 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, May 12, BNS—The broadcasting bill that passed Wednesday [11 May] the second reading in the parliament allows the state-owned Estonian Radio and Estonian Television to include advertising in their broadcasts.

Under the bill, advertisements may amount to five percent of the daily broadcasts over one Estonian-language and one Russian-language radio channel.

Private radio and TV stations are allowed to spend 20 percent of their airtime on advertising. Tiit Sinissaar, chairman of the Pro Patria parliamentary faction, therefore voiced the opinion that granting state radio and TV permission to advertising broadcasts does not affect the activity of private stations.

The legislators carried Wednesday a motion stipulating that Estonian Radio and Estonian Television are independent legal persons which jointly administer the radio and TV broadcasting center. The motion put forward by the Liberal faction, under which the radio, the television and the broadcasting center would form one single organization, found no support in the parliament.

The motion to include a "principle of political balance" in the broadcasting law was also rejected. According to the proposal, a radio or TV station, which allows airtime to a political party, should give other parties at their request the same amount of time on the air.

Sinissaar told reporters it would at present be impossible to observe such a principle of balance.

"We have about a score of competing political parties and if this principle was implemented dividing airtime between parties would be the principal occupation of the radio and TV stations," he said.

Latvia

Russian Envoy Presents New Army Withdrawal Schedule

LD1205163194 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1500 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Shortly after 1700, Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs was visited by Russian Ambassador to Latvia Aleksandr Rannikh, who presented a new, more complete schedule for the withdrawal of the Russian Army.

Pledges Full Navy Withdrawal

LD1205141294 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] President Guntis Ulmanis met with Russian Ambassador Aleksandr Rannikh today. The Russian

ambassador came at the president's invitation to discuss relations between the two countries. The Latvian president's letter to Russian President Boris Yeltsin was submitted to the ambassador.

Speaking of progress in implementing the Latvian-Russian agreements, Rannikh was concerned about Latvia's insufficient practical work in the area of the Skrunda new radar station. The Russian ambassador also told the president that at the beginning of June the last Russian Navy warship will leave Liepaja port and thus the Russian Navy will have completely left Latvia.

During the talks the opinion was expressed that the Latvian and Russian executive powers must act more responsibly and energetically so that the scheduled visit by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to Latvia can take place by the end of May.

Both the president and the ambassador assessed Latvia's recent joining of the Western European Union as an associate partner as a big success by Latvian diplomacy. Rannikh said that this event is evidence of the unified support by Europe and the Western European Union, which is an institution of European security, for the package of Latvian-Russia agreements signed in Moscow.

Ulmanis Sends Yeltsin Letter on Relations

WS1305082894 Tallinn BNS in English 1507 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Riga, May 12, BNS—Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis sent his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin a letter outlining a string of proposals for the formation of bilateral relations.

Ulmanis handed the letter over to Russian Ambassador Alexander Rannikh who visited him Thursday [12 May] to discuss Latvian- Russian relations.

Rannikh voiced his concern over "insufficient Latvian activities in the new block of the Skrunda radar facility," the president's office told BNS.

The ambassador told Ulmanis that the last Russian warship would leave the Liepaja seaport early in July, thus, marking the complete withdrawal of Russian naval forces from Latvia.

The officials pointed out that Latvian and Russian executive institutions should act more responsibly and energetically to allow for Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin's visit to Latvia later this month.

Ulmanis and Rannikh also assessed the recent Latvian joining to the Western European Union [WEU] in the status of "associate partner" as a major achievement of the Latvian diplomacy.

Rannikh claims that the event confirms the unanimous WEU and European Union's backing to the signed package of Latvian-Russian troop withdrawal treaty.

Oversight Bureau Receives Incomplete Asset List

WS1205115194 Tallinn BNS in English 0906 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Riga, 12 May, BNS—Latvian bureau, supervising the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia, demanded Wednesday [11 May] that the Russian North West Army Group informed the bureau about the Russian military objects' withdrawal terms, the bureau head, Ilgonis Upmalis, told BNS.

Upmalis said that Russia has handed a withdrawal schedule to the bureau but as many as 13 Russian military objects and 26 Army units stationed on war ships and submarines in Riga and Liepaja are not included in it.

The Liepaja Tosmare ship repair factory, the Russian North West Army Group's rear headquarters, air force's reconnaissance unit No 15, secret service's office, the Russian North West Army Group's archives and army sports club are among the Russian military objects, not included in the list.

The bureau also wants the Russian North West Army Group's leadership to name the numbers of Army units, mentioned in the list, their addresses, and to hand in lists of militaries and their family members.

Russia's delivered Army withdrawal schedule is a supplement to the agreement on Russian Army withdrawal from Latvia, signed 30 April.

Saeima Chief Returns From Africa

WS1205133294 Riga LETA in English 1000 GMT 12 May 94

[Excerpts] Riga, 12 May (LETA)—"It was the first official visit of a representative from independent Latvia both to South Africa and the African continent," said the Saeima's [parliament] chairman, Anatolijs Gorbunovs, on his arrival in Riga from South Africa on Wednesday [11 May]. He participated in the inauguration ceremony of the first black president, Nelson Mandela. [passage omitted]

Speaking of his meeting with the South Africa's new president, Nelson Mandela, the Latvian speaker stressed that Mr. Mandela is energetic and has a great deal of ideas. However, Mr. Gorbunovs, declined to speculate on the development of the events in this African country, because relations between the black and white remain tense there. Mr. Gorbunovs drew a parallel between Mr. Mandela and Mikhail Gorbachev, who led Russia to democracy and was deprived of his post of the president because of the political struggle in the USSR.

Lithuania

Brazauskas Interviewed on Relations With Russia

LD1205172394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1631 GMT 12 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius 12 May TASS—"In spite of the difficulties, current situation in the Russo-Lithuanian relations may be described as good. (The relations) are developing in accordance with the guidelines mapped out in the (bilateral) agreement of 25 Juiy 1991 and the joint declaration signed by the Russian and Lithuanian presidents on 30 August 1993," said President Algirdas Brazauskas of Lithuania in an interview with the "MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN" ("INTERNATIONAL ARENA") journal that comes out in Russia.

The whole text of the interview will be published in the next issue of the journal, but the official "ECHO OF LITHUANIA" daily published several excerpts from it on Thursday [12 May].

"The visit of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was of great importance. (The two parties) signed during his visit a package of agreements on 18 November 1993.

"One of the most important agreements—the one on exchanging the most favoured nation status in trade and economic relations—has not been put into effect as yet, unfortunately. Lithuania has fulfilled its treaty commitments - now it is Russia's turn," said Brazauskas.

According to him, there is no mention of Lithuania in the long list of 130 countries, which trade with Moscow in "free trade" and "most favoured nation in trade" format, although the relevant agreement has been signed. This is "disadvantageous and detrimental to both parties," he said.

"In our opinion, such economic statement has no future," the Lithuanian president emphasized in this connection.

Commenting on a recent exchange of messages with Russian President Yeltsin and telephone conversation with Chernomyrdin, Brazauskas said that, in his opinion, it was possible "to eliminate existing difficulties in our relations, which surfaced recently."

'Text' of Bilateral Treaty With Poland

WS1205110094 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 28 Apr 94 No. 82 pp 5, 6

[Text of the "Treaty on Friendly Relations and Good-Neighborly Cooperation Between the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Poland" signed in Vilnius on 26 April]

[Text] The Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Poland, hereinafter the Contracting Parties:

— Following the goals and principles contained in the UN Charter, the Final Act of the CSCE, the Paris Charter for New Europe, and European documents on multilateral cooperation;

— Seeking to contribute to the integration process of European states and realizing the common nature of their interests and responsibility for peace, security, concord, and cooperation in a democratic and free Europe that respects human rights;

— Assessing the importance of relations between Lithuania and Poland for cooperation in Central Europe, the Baltic region, and the entire European continent, and stating their determination to cooperate bilaterally and in international organizations and institutions, and also seeking to expand multilateral cooperation in the Baltic region;

— Remembering the complicated history of both nations and the centuries-old proximity between the Lithuanians and the Poles, and considering the possibility for both nations to assess the common history of both states differently;

— Stressing that the awareness of good and bad pages in the history of our states must serve to strengthen mutual understanding between the Lithuanian and Polish nations in unifying and democratic Europe;

— Expressing their regret over the conflicts that occurred between the two states after World War I, when following a long period of captivity the Lithuanians and the Poles began to create a new and independent life, and condemning the use of force that occurred in relations between both nations;

— Regretting the tragedies and huge losses that befell our nations due to the totalitarian systems of the 20th century;

— Solemnly confirming the integrity of their respective territories with the capitals of Vilnius and Warsaw in the present and in the future, regardless of the formation of their borders in the past;

— Considering the fact that the Lithuanians and the Poles, who have resided on the territories of both states for centuries, have contributed and are contributing invariable values to the culture of both nations and states, and that they have made an essential contribution to the development of European culture;

—Realizing that the independence regained by both countries empowers us to bold ideas about the future;

—Seeking multifold development of their relations and cooperation based on good-neighborly principles, have agreed on the following:

Article 1

The Contracting Parties shall develop their relations in the spirit of mutual respect, trust, equality, and neighborliness, by granting priority to international law, and particularly the principles of respect for sovereignty, inviolability of borders, the ban on armed aggression, territorial integrity, noninterference in internal affairs, and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Article 2

1. The Contracting Parties recognize the border that exists between them and around their respective territories as inviolable, and assume a mutual responsibility of unconditional respect for their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

2. The Parties confirm that they do not have any territorial claims to one another, and that they will not voice such claims in the future.

Article 3

1. Following the UN Charter and relevant CSCE documents, the Contracting Parties commit themselves to settle mutual disputes only by peaceful means, and confirm that they will restrain from the use and threat of force in bilateral relations.

2. Neither Party shall allow any third party to commit an act of aggression against the other Contracting Party from its territory.

3. Each Party shall guarantee that actions of its armed forces on its territory comply with the UN Charter, the Final Act of the CSCE, the Paris Charter for New Europe, and other CSCE documents.

Article 4

1. Following relevant clauses of CSCE documents, the Contracting Parties shall cooperate in seeking to preserve and strengthen security on the European continent.

2. The Parties shall implement joint measures accepted in Europe to strengthen security and trust. If need be, the Parties shall agree on additional measures of this nature.

3. The Parties shall devote particular attention to the strengthening of security and trust measures in the Baltic Sea region.

Article 5

1. The Contracting Parties shall lend active support to the process of nuclear, chemical, and biological disarmament. The Parties believe that the reduction of arms to proportions sufficient for defense, as well as the enactment of the Agreement on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, will strengthen stability and security in Europe.

2. Following the Agreement on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Parties shall cooperate in seeking to prevent the proliferation of these weapons in the world, and particularly in East and Central Europe.

3. The Parties shall apply measures guaranteeing control over the exports of goods and technologies, which serve peaceful purposes, but which can also be used for the production of weapons listed in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the current article.

4. The Parties shall base their relations in the military sphere on separate agreements.

Article 6

1. In case of disputes or situations, which, in the opinion of any Contracting Party, might be or are posing a threat to world peace and security, or which violate international peace and security, particularly if those conflicts or situations affect both Parties, the Contracting Parties shall hold relevant conferences without delay, seeking possible measures to regulate conflicts or situations in line with the UN Charter.

2. If a third party or third parties were to commit an armed attack against either of the Parties, the other Party pledges to cut all aid or support to such a state or states over the entire period of the armed conflict, and they shall try to assist in regulating this conflict in accordance with the UN Charter and CSCE documents.

Article 7

By participating in the activities of the Baltic Sea States' Council and other Baltic Sea regional organizations and institutions, the Contracting Parties shall create favorable conditions for the promotion of cooperation and good-neighborly relations in this part of Europe.

Article 8

1. The Contracting Parties shall develop regular contacts between state offices and institutions. The Parties shall also create favorable conditions for developing interparliamentary cooperation.

2. Meetings between leaders of the states and their governments shall be normally held once a year, as well as in other cases on the agreement of the Parties.

3. Foreign ministers shall hold regular consultations on issues interesting to both Parties.

4. In case of necessity, the Parties will be able to set up bilateral commissions to resolve issues interesting to both Parties.

Article 9

1. The Contracting Parties shall promote mutually beneficial economic, including commercial, cooperation, based on market principles, shall create favorable conditions for such cooperation considering the protection

of investments, technologies, patents, and copyrights, and shall regulate the turnover of capital, labor force, goods, and services by law.

2. The Parties shall support the expansion of cooperation among state-run and private enterprises and other economic entities, particularly the development of investment and capital cooperation between Lithuanian and Polish enterprises, by taking advantage of all possible measures of promotion. Special attention will be devoted to cooperation of small and medium-sized enterprises.

3. The Parties shall exchange experience and render training and other assistance to one another in developing and upgrading a market economy.

4. The Parties shall pursue peaceful purposes in promoting and creating favorable conditions for scientific and technological cooperation between the two states, based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit and considering up-to-date possibilities of science and technology.

Article 10

1. The Contracting Parties attach great importance to mutually beneficial cooperation between rural districts, towns, other administrative-territorial units, and regions, particularly in border zones. The Parties shall eliminate obstacles to such cooperation and back it in all spheres and bilateral relations through their participation in the activities of both the Baltic Sea States' Council and the Baltic Cities' Union.

2. Expanding cooperation mentioned in Paragraph 1, the Parties shall primarily follow relevant European Council conventions. The Parties shall seek to involve relevant European institutions in this cooperation.

3. The Parties shall set up a bilateral commission for issues of border cooperation. A relevant agreement shall be signed in view of this.

4. The Parties shall increase the number of border crossings, revamp existing ones, as well as roads leading to them, and shall take effort to improve and speed up the procedure of customs and border control, and shall continue to develop cooperation between relevant administrative offices.

5. The Parties agree that under the conditions of integration among European states, it is necessary to coordinate policies of separate states in the sphere of infrastructure planning, particularly between neighboring states with common borders.

Article 11

1. The Contracting Parties shall cooperate in upgrading mutual and transit transportation and the infrastructure linked with all spheres of transportation, as well as delivery by pipelines and electric lines.

2. The Parties shall take measures to update and improve telecommunications, particularly telephone, telex, and electronic data communications.

3. The Parties shall support cooperation in the spheres of transportation and communications in Europe and other parts of the world. Relevant institutions shall conclude separate agreements on these spheres, meeting international standards and norms.

Article 12

1. The Contracting Parties shall cooperate in the spheres of environmental protection and the rational utilization of natural resources, aimed at guaranteeing mutual and long-term ecological security. The Parties shall develop, support, and create conditions to upgrade and preserve the good condition of the environment, particularly of water, air, soil, and forests, and to protect fauna and flora, particularly in border areas. The Parties shall apply protective measures to avoid cross-border environmental pollution, particularly with chemical and radioactive substances, and shall seek effective restriction and removal of contaminants. They shall also cooperate in applying and expanding ecologically clean production and technologies.

2. The Parties shall warn one another of possible contamination, and they shall take joint action and render mutual assistance in seeking to avoid and remove ecological risks in border zones.

3. The Parties shall participate in creating coordinate cooperation and a strategy for environmental protection in Europe and the world.

4. Following international standards, relevant institutions of both Parties shall conclude separate agreements on ecological security and cooperation.

Article 13

1. The Contracting Parties pledge to observe the international principles and standards of protection of ethnic minority rights defined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the International Pacts on Human Rights, relevant CSCE documents, as well as in the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Additional Protocols, which both Parties have joined.

2. Persons belonging to the Lithuanian ethnic minority in the Republic of Poland, that is, Polish citizens of Lithuanian origin or those who ascribe themselves as Lithuanians, who observe Lithuanian culture and tradition, and who consider Lithuanian their native language, as well as those persons who belong to the Polish ethnic minority in the Republic of Lithuania, that is, Lithuanian citizens of Polish origin or who ascribe themselves as Poles, who observe Polish culture and tradition, and who consider Polish their native language, have the right to freely express, preserve, and develop their ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious identity, individually or

in cooperation with other members of their groups, without any discrimination and under the conditions of full equality before the law.

3. The Parties confirm that ethnic affiliation is a matter of individual choice, which cannot result in any negative consequences for a person.

No one can be forced to prove or renounce his or her ethnic affiliation.

Article 14

The Contracting Parties state that persons listed in Paragraph 2 of Article 13 also have the right:

—To free use of their ethnic language in personal and public life;

—To have access to information in that language, the possibility to spread and exchange it, and possess their own mass media;

—To study in the language of their ethnic minority and to learn that language;

—In line with the state law and other legal acts, to set up and maintain their institutions, organizations, or associations, particularly cultural, religious, and educational ones, as well as schools of all levels that can seek voluntary financial or other sources of maintenance inside the country and abroad, and social support, and to participate in nongovernmental international organizations;

—To exercise and practice their religion, as well as to receive, possess, and use religious material, and to engage in religious educational activities in the language of their ethnic minority;

—To establish and maintain free mutual contacts inside their country, as well as contacts across the border with citizens of other countries, with whom they are related through their common ethnic origin;

—To use their given and family names according to the phonetics of the ethnic minority language. Norms of their spelling will be detailed in a special agreement;

—To participate in public life directly or through freely elected representatives on the level of state and local governments, as well as to assume public service on an equal basis with other citizens.

Article 15

1. The Contracting Parties shall protect on their territories the ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious identity of persons listed in Paragraph 2 of Article 13, and shall create conditions for its development.

2. The Parties shall also:

—Define the use of ethnic minority languages in their offices, particularly in those administrative-territorial units where the ethnic minority constitutes the greater part of the population,

—Ensure that ethnic minorities have access to the mass media,

—Guarantee the necessary conditions to study in the ethnic minority language and to learn it in pre-school establishments, primary and secondary schools,

—Adopt the necessary measures linked with the protection of the ethnic minority identity, following relevant consultations, and including contacts with organizations and associations listed in Paragraph 2 of Article 13,

—Take into account the history and culture of groups listed in Paragraph 2 of Article 13 in teaching history and culture at educational establishments,

—Refrain from any actions that could lead to the assimilation of persons who belong to ethnic minorities against their will, and, following international standards, they shall not resort to measures that could cause ethnic changes in territories populated by ethnic minorities.

Article 16

1. Neither provision contained in Article 14 can be interpreted as granting the right to conduct any activities or perform any acts which run counter to the UN Charter and the principles of international law, particularly to the principles of the territorial integrity of states, as well as to CSCE documents.

2. Each person belonging to the Lithuanian ethnic minority in the Republic of Poland and the Polish ethnic minority in the Republic of Lithuania, as any other citizen, must be loyal to the state in which he or she resides and abide by commitments contained in its laws.

Article 17

The Contracting Parties shall guarantee to persons, who have permanent residence on their territories but who are citizens of the other Party, all human rights which are granted to such persons by universally accepted principles and specific norms of international law, as well as by the law of the state in which these persons have permanent residence.

Article 18

1. The Contracting Parties shall take particular care of cultural places and assets on their territories, which attest to historical developments and scientific and cultural achievements and traditions of the other Party, and shall undertake actions to involve them in the cultural process and guarantee the due legal, material, and other

protection, and shall ensure free and unrestricted access to them, including those cases when their protection is not the duty of the state.

2. The Parties shall apply measures to find, establish, and return cultural assets which were removed from the territory of the other Party in violation of international norms.

3. The Parties shall appoint their government commissioners in seeking to implement tasks defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2.

Article 19

1. The Contracting Parties shall undertake actions to expand cooperation between different types of schools, institutions of higher education, and research institutes, as well as the exchange of school students and postgraduate scholarship students.

2. The Parties shall honor periods of studies, diplomas of secondary and higher educational institutions of various levels, and academic degrees.

Article 20

1. The Contracting Parties confirm their readiness to create possibilities for all interested persons to have access to the language and culture of the other Party, and they shall support relevant state-run and private initiatives and institutions.

2. The Parties shall support the promotion of literature of the other Party in the vernacular and in translation.

3. The Parties speak out for the expansion of possibilities to study the language of the other Party at schools, institutes of higher education, and other educational institutions. In addition, they shall attempt to expand studies of the Lithuanian and Polish languages at institutions of higher education of the other Party.

4. The Parties shall cooperate in assigning out-of-town jobs for pedagogical and research workers aimed at upgrading their training and professional skills, and in creating possibilities for mutual scientific assistance.

5. The Parties shall support the activities of joint commissions for school textbooks.

Article 21

1. Each Contracting Party shall allay the circulation of the press, publications, and audio-visual facilities of the other Party. The Parties shall expand cooperation in the sphere of radio and television, as well as between news agencies, this way contributing to objective and thorough information about the lives of societies of both Parties. Terms of this cooperation shall be detailed in separate agreements.

2. Seeking to promote cultural, scientific, and educational achievements of their nations and to support cooperation in these spheres, the Parties shall establish Lithuanian cultural and information centers in Poland and respective Polish centers in Lithuania.

3. The Parties shall assist in promoting contacts between citizens of both Parties and cooperation between their social organizations, political parties, trade unions, church and religious associations, sports organizations, foundations, and other social organizations and associations.

4. Considering the distinctive role of youth in forming bilateral relations and accord between the nations of both states, the Governments of the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Poland shall sign an agreement on cooperation and exchange of young people's groups.

Article 22

1. The Contracting Parties shall support multifold cooperation in the spheres of health care and hygiene, particularly in preventing and abolishing civilization and contagious diseases.

2. The Parties shall seek cooperation in the spheres of employment relations, insurance, and social security.

Article 23

1. Following international law and ethnic and religious customs, each Contracting Party pledges to grant legal protection to and take care of military and civilian cemeteries, graves, places of burial along with their monuments, and other memorial places and objects which currently are situated on their territory, or which will be discovered there in the future, and which are objects of respect and memory for citizens of the other Party.

2. Citizens of both Parties shall have the right to freely visit and take care of graves, cemeteries, places of burial of their countrymen, and memorial places which are situated on the territory of the other Party.

3. The Parties shall cooperate in establishing and recording places of burial of the other Party on their territory.

Article 24

1. The Contracting Parties shall create conditions by separate agreements for legal cooperation in civilian, family, criminal, and administrative proceedings.

2. The Parties shall cooperate in seeking to prevent organized crime, terrorism, economic crimes, illegal drug and arms trade, illegal trade in works of art, security violations in civilian navigation and air transportation, the production and use of forged legal tender, as well as illegal migration.

Article 25

This Treaty does not infringe on rights and commitments defined in bilateral and multilateral agreements, which each Contracting Party has concluded with other states.

Article 26

This Treaty shall be registered with the Office of the UN Secretary General under Article 102 of the UN Charter.

Article 27

1. This Treaty shall be ratified and come into effect on the date of exchange of instruments of ratification.

2. This Treaty is concluded for a period of 15 years. After that, its validity is automatically extended for another five years, unless one of the Parties annuls it by way of notification no later than one year before the end of a corresponding period.

The Treaty was concluded on 26 April 1994 in Vilnius in two copies, each in the Lithuanian and Polish languages, and both texts are equally valid.

[Signed] On behalf of the Republic of Lithuania Algirdas Brazauskas. On behalf of the Republic of Poland Lech Walesa

Polish Ambassador on Treaty

WS1205133494 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 5 May 94 No. 87 p 9

[Interview with Polish Ambassador to Lithuania Jan Widacki by Gintaras Vinickas in Vilnius on 2 May: "Jan Widacki: 'One Must Look to the Future'"]

[Excerpts] [Vinickas] There is a hope that the visit of Polish President Lech Walesa to Lithuania and the signing of the Lithuanian-Polish bilateral treaty will be a new beginning in relations between our two countries. What is your view on the prospects for such an opening?

[Widacki] The signing of the bilateral treaty was an important moment in the relations between our two countries. However, this was not some unexpected event, but the result of extensive preparatory work. I suppose that the signing of this treaty will be followed by a more rapid and broader development of ties. The treaty ends period and begins a qualitatively new one in our relations. It raises our ties to the European and world levels.

In view of the new relations, one should not think about the past—mutual injustice and postwar grudges. Neither France nor England, or Germany think about them. Otherwise today we would not have either the European Union or other structures of this continent. I repeat once again that the treaty must close the past. One must look to the future.

By signing this document, both parties demonstrated their maturity to join the Union. I believe that West Europe has realized this.

[Vinickas] Signed agreements are normally subject to ratification. What procedure does Poland have in this respect?

[Widacki] If we seek to sign an agreement, we also want to ratify it. Each government wants this to occur as soon as possible. According to the Small Constitution in Poland, bilateral treaties are ratified by the president, and the fact is publicized.

The Polish Sejm ratifies those agreements, which require amendments in the law, or which entail financial changes. [passage omitted]

Poland does not see any obstacles, and if it becomes clear that Lithuania is ready to ratify the treaty, this will be promptly accomplished in Poland. There is no threat that the president will not ratify a treaty, which he himself has signed.

[Vinickas] Both Poland and Lithuania have people who opposed the treaty before the signing without knowing its contents. What would you tell those people now?

[Widacki] I think that these people speak the same language on both sides, and they need one another. Since they criticized the treaty without reading it, I propose that they read it very attentively. I am convinced that people who opposed this treaty will change their mind after reading it. I also believe, however, that someone will try to discern things that are not there. We already know the interpretation of one Lithuanian politician [reference to Center Movement leader R. Ozolas] that the treaty empowers us to return the former property of Polish social organizations. However, the treaty does say a word about this. He read what was not written.... I think that this is a psychological phenomenon.

[Vinickas] The situation at the Polish-Lithuanian border is like laughter through tears. So much has been written and said about it.... Do you expect the situation to improve anytime soon?

[Widacki] [passage omitted] It is difficult to say today whether it will be easier to cross the border, let us say, beginning in September. I think that the large flow of people is linked with a difference in prices between our countries. A few years ago, people would bring various goods from Lithuania to Poland, sell them there, and return with dollars in their pockets. The situation seems to have changed today: They are going to Poland with dollars for shopping. I suppose that when prices become equal, there will be fewer traders, who currently constitute the majority of people crossing the border. The crossing points may even be overly large in the future.

There are two border check points for cars and one for trains on our 100-km-long border—such is its approximate length. No other border of this length has so many crossings. This situation is unnatural from the economic viewpoint.

[Vinickas] While on a visit to Lithuania, President L. Walesa evaded any comments on the current situation in Poland. A general strike was announced immediately after his return home. Even today (the interview was conducted on 2 May—G.V.), the situations seems to remain serious. Could you comment on this?

[Widacki] Reform and all changes demand that society express its wishes and attitudes. Society must pay some price for the introduction of market relations and changes.

How can one introduce market relations and protect the community against their painful effects at the same time? One must find the golden mean between economic requirements and social needs. From the economic point of view, it is clear that a mine or, let us say, a foundry must be closed down. However, what do thousands of workers have to do? One must find the golden mean. While searching for it, one commits many mistakes and applies improper methods which lead to strikes. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister, Envoy Attend Council of Europe Session

WS1205115294 Tallinn BNS in English 0906 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Vilnius, 12 May, BNS—Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys and the charge d'affaires of the Lithuanian mission to the Council of Europe [CE], Aurimas Taurantas, attended a session of the CE Committee of Ministers in Strasbourg Wednesday [11 May].

The meeting focused on ways of reforming human rights control and possibilities to expand the CE.

The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry said Gylys later met with his Spanish and Slovakian counterparts for a discussion of bilateral cooperation issues.

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